FREEMASONRY

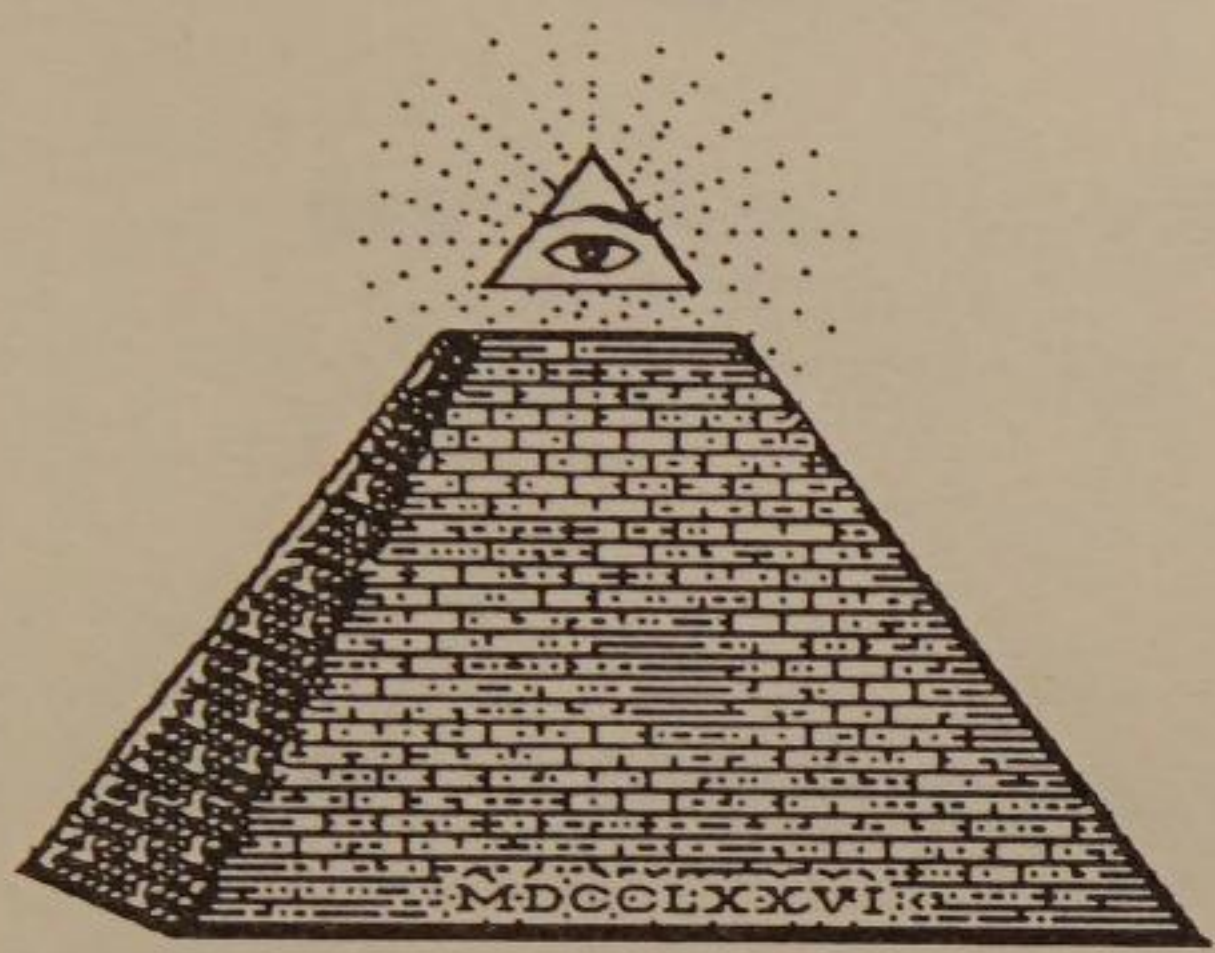
ANCIENT EGYPT

AND THE

ISLAMIC DESTINY

By MUSTAFA EL-AMIN

FREEMASONRY



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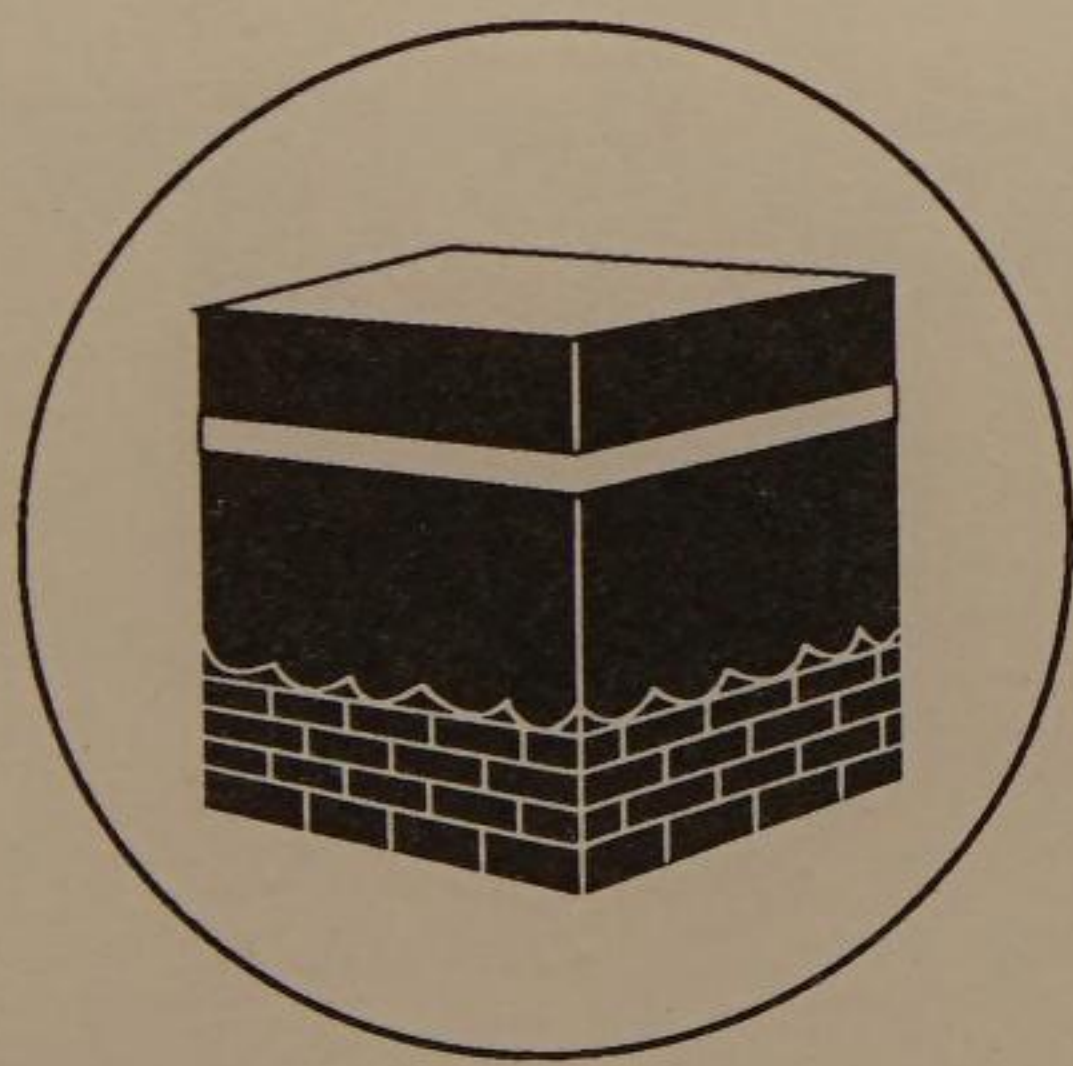

By Mustafa El-Amin

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to those who seek knowledge and wisdom. It is dedicated to the many courageous men and women who have struggled to bring light, dignity and progress to those who grope in darkness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express gratitude for the assistance given by the following people in the preparation and completion of this work: my wife, Joanne El-Amin, Umar Bey Ali, Yusuf Ali, Hakim Ali, Ansari Nadir, Wali Shabazz, Abdul Kabir Shamsiddeen, Imam Armiya Nu'Man and Zakiyyah Nu'Man, and Derron Fareed.

I would also like to thank Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., Rev. Robert L. Uzzel, and Brian L. Abrams of the Phylaxis Society for their courageous efforts in trying to bring about a better understanding between Muslims and Masons.

BIOGRAPHY

Mustafa El-Amin was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1957. He has devoted the last 13 years to the study of Al-Islam and Freemasonry. He has given several lectures on each subject and his efforts led to a historic dialogue between Muslims and Masons in 1987.

Mustafa received a B.A. Degree in Community Development from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. in 1979. In 1983, he received a Masters Degree in Public Administration. He has also authored two other works, "LET THERE BE LIGHT" published in 1981 and "AL-ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY, AND FREEMASONRY" published in 1985.

FOREWORD

This book, Freemasonry, Ancient Egypt, and The Islamic Destiny, is an excellent, thought-provoking, and intellectually stimulating piece of literature. This is a book that the wise and prudent will embrace, cherish and appreciate. This book contains historical, philosophical, and analytical information about subjects and ideas that are vital to human society.

The author examines the role of Freemasonry in the formation and life of the American society. Considerable discussion is given to the ancient symbols that appear on the American One Dollar Bill.

Freemasonry seems to have an attracting pull not only on the minds of lay men alone, but interestingly enough, it has drawn the rich, the intelligent, and many of the leaders of the *Free World* to its doors. What is it about Freemasonry that it has attracted such honorable and distinguished men as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Andrew Johnson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Gerald R. Ford, and, according to recent reports, even President Ronald Reagan has become an honorary member of the Masonic Order.

What is it about Freemasonry that most of the early founding fathers of America felt the need to embrace it? Why is it that many members of the Congress, the Supreme Court, judges, politicians, etc. have joined and studied the teachings of Freemasonry? Many African-American leaders have also locked arms with Freemasonry: Reverend Jesse Jackson; Mayor Andrew Young (Atlanta); Former Mayor Harold Washington (Chicago); NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks; Mayor Thomas Bradley (Los Angeles); Congressman Louis Stokes; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; Mayor Marion Barry (District of Columbia); State

Senator Julian Bond; Mayor Coleman Young (Detroit); John A. Johnson, Publisher of Ebony and Jet Magazines; Former Mayor Kenneth Gibson (Newark); and many, many more are Masons.

This book highlights the connection between Freemasonry, America and Ancient Egypt. It explores the great contributions that the ancient Africans of Egypt made to the West and to the entire world. The author elaborates on the Biblical and Qur'anic stories of Joseph and Moses, and the situation in Egypt, as he shows the connections and similarities to the plight of the African-Americans in modern times.

Human society is not stagnant, it is on a course; it has a destiny. This scholarly work explains the destiny of man and society. His ultimate destination is the "Islamic Destiny"---the ultimate idea for advancing society on the basis of justice. Here the author explains the essential role of Islam in the American Democracy and in world civilization. The religion of Islam will one day be seen and understood in its correct form by the majority of the people on earth. It is that realization and understanding that will bring about a better situation world-wide. Al-Islam is an ideology that advances human society and brings out the best in man. However, this can only be done through the correct understanding and application of its principles.

Ansari Nadir
April, 1988

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CHAPTER I

THE BALANCED LIFE

It is God who has sent down the Book in truth, and the Balance (By which to weigh conduct). And what will make thee realize that perhaps the Hour is Close at hand?

Holy Qur'an 42:17

A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are His work.

Holy Bible Proverbs 16:11

Both the Bible and the Qur'an speak of God's justice and mercy. They both refer to the *"balance"*. Balance brings to mind equality, precision, and justice. The Qur'anic verse mentioned above tells us that the Creator has revealed a book that is to be used as a guide or instrument by which man can weigh his actions. In another place in the Qur'an the Creator says "... *he whose balance (of good deeds) will be found heavy, will be in a life of good pleasure and satisfaction. But, he whose balance (of good deeds) will be (found) light, will have his home in a bottomless pit."* (H.Q.101:7-8)

The Bible calls our attention to the fact that the Creator is just and is the source of justice and equality. Balance and justice are usually symbolized by the scale. The scale and what it represents is an extremely important symbol in Masonry, religion, metaphysics, government and human science. The Holy Qur'an tells us to live a balanced life. To concern ourselves with material and spiritual life. In Chapter 27: Verse 77 it reads, *"And seek by the means God has given you the eternal home; however, do not neglect your share of*

the world, but do good as God has been good to you, and seek not (occasion for) mischief in the land, for God does not love those who do mischief".

The scales are very important in Masonry. In the 32nd degree entitled "The Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret" the question is asked:

"What was placed in your left hand when you assumed the obligation of the 31st degree?"

ANSWER: "A pair of scales."

QUESTION: "What lesson was it meant to teach you?"

ANSWER: "That in all my judgments and opinions of men, I should be guided solely by justice and equity."

In the 7th degree entitled "Provost and Judge" the question is asked:

"What else have you seen in the lodge?"

ANSWER: "A pair of scales which are the emblem of rectitude, with which we should always execute the duties of this degree, as we are appointed judges to decide all disputes that may occur."

QUESTION: "Where is the body of our respectable Master Hiram Abiff deposited?"

ANSWER: "Under the footstool of the throne in the chapter room which is separated from the temple, to which you go by an arch-way on the north side of the temple."

In the 11th degree we find these words: "The pair of scales you perceive to be an attribute of justice. It is here exposed to your sight to make you remember that it is with that you ought to weigh your proceedings and projects if you are inclined to deserve the glorious name of Emeth."

Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry states, "So we find that among the ancients a balance, or pair of scales, was a well known recognized symbol of a strict observation of justice and fair dealing" (pg.90). In the words of King Solomon, *"A False balance is abomination to the Lord but just weight is his delight"* (Bible Proverbs 11:1)

The Holy Bible gives us a picture of the evils of injustice and God's disapproval of greed and the selfish hoarding of resources. When the scales of human justice are tilted the balance of lives are destroyed. In the Book of James we read:

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you, kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabbath. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and doth not resist you." (Bible, James 5:1-6)

The Bible also mentions the warning that was given to Belshazzar. "Mene, Mene, Tekel," which means *"God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thus art weighed in the balance, and art found wanting."* (Daniel 5:24-29).

In the 83rd chapter of the Holy Qur'an are these words: *"Woe to thou that deal in fraud, those who, when they have to receive by measure from men, exact full measure, but when they have to give by measure or weight to men, give less than due. Do they not think that they will be called to account? On a Mighty Day, a Day when all mankind will stand before the Lord of the Worlds?"* (83:1-6). ALLAH also says: *"And weigh with scales true and upright"* (H.Q. 26:182)

Let us consider the fact that the Creator has freely given us all that we need to live and grow. The Creator has freely given us the light of knowledge and has enriched his creation with a wealth of precious signs that lead the astute mind to the road of progress and the streams of beauty.

Allah has unselfishly given us the faculties of reason, and has created the precious human form. Allah commissioned Prophet

Muhammad to say: *"Say 'It is He who has created you (and made you grow), and made for you the faculties of hearing, seeing, feeling and understanding: Little thanks it is ye give"* (H.Q. 57: 23).

History teaches us that the Prophets of God taught the people the precious knowledge of the Scripture and the science of creation freely. Can a man honestly claim that he has balanced the scale of justice upon the level of equality if he seeks knowledge only for himself, and not for the advancement of humanity? The "Sacred Book of Law" in Masonry is called the "Great Light," not the "Great Night" or the dark night. A light can be seen by the eyes and intelligence of men.

The scales represent the balance of man's material and spiritual nature. It alludes to the equilibrium that is necessary for erecting human life.

MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

The scales are associated with law, the legal system, the courts, judges, et cetera. We are to look to the judge for fairness. In the court, the facts and evidence are weighed or balanced out. A Judge is supposed to be a person of sound mind, good character and prudent behavior. A good judge tries to understand and consider the material and spiritual circumstances of the individual that is before him. His role as a part of the Judicial Branch of government is to decide the meaning of the law and apply it justly.

Albert Pike, in discussing the importance of the seventh (7th) degree of Masonry entitled "Provost and Judge", explains: "Those who are invested with the power of judgement should judge the causes of all persons uprightly and impartially without any personal consideration of the power of the mighty, or the bribe of the rich, or the needs of the poor... They must hear patiently,

remember accurately and weigh carefully the acts and arguments offered before them" (*Morals and Dogma* p. 126).

The Bible has an entire chapter called "The Book of Judges." In the Holy Qur'an, Allah says, *"We shall set up scales of justice, for the day of judgement, so that not a soul will be dealt with unjustly in the least..."* (H.Q. 41:27) .

In Surah (Chapter) 4, Ayat (Verse) 58 of the Holy Qur'an we read, *"God doth command you to render back your trusts, to those to whom they are due; and when ye judge between man and man, that ye judge with justice: verily how excellent is the teaching which He giveth you! For God is He ho heareth and seeth all things".*

It is reported that Prophet Muhammad explained, "No judge must ever give judgement between two people when he is angry" (Bukhari). It is also reported that he said, "Allah is with the judge as long as he is not tyrannical, but when he is, He departs from him and the devil attaches himself to him" (Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah).

There are some very important signs all around us that point to the idea of material and spiritual balance. For example, the highest court in America is called the Supreme Court. There are nine (9) judges on the Supreme Court, which is very significant. Why? In Masonic symbolism the number nine is almost of unspeakable importance, and it represents the union or understanding of the material and spiritual. Nine consists of the numbers Four (4) and Five (5). Four represents material, and five represents the spiritual. In the book Al-Islam, Christianity and Freemasonry, I discussed the meaning of the number nine with considerable details. However, in having received "more light" I will try to discuss the number nine in much greater detail.

As we mentioned, four (4) represents the material. The Bible says that four rivers went out of the garden and became heads. Wilmhurst tells us that the garden, or the east, represents the "spiritual nature" or "home" of man. Therefore, leaving the garden means "leaving the spiritual and going to the material."

If we observe the creation we will find that most animals walk on four, and that even man starts out as a baby crawling on four, bounded to the material earth. Four forms a square. A perfect square is a four part figure with angles of ninety degrees (90°). However, if we multiply the angles by four, we get three hundred and sixty degrees (360) which is 3 + 6 = 9. The cross, which is a universal symbol, points in the four carnal directions: North, East, South and West.

In Freemasonry there are the four (4) points of entrance, which are taught to the candidate in the first degree called "Entered Apprentice". Many Masonic writers and authorities agree that this degree represents the material state of man or material level of existence. The four points of entrance are represented by the gutteral, pectoral, manual and pedal, and they allude to the four cardinal virtues: **temperance, fortitude, prudence and justice**. In the second degree the question is asked concerning the simple square: "What is a square?" ANSWER: "An angle of ninety degrees or the fourth part of a circle." There were four gates at Solomon's Temple.

In the eleventh degree "Sublime Knights Elected", the members who are referred to as Joabert are made to kneel at the "four points of the compass in allusion to the four gates of the temple..." In this degree the sign is given by crossing the arms on the chest, thus making a square. The Bible also mentions four beasts, four horses, and four angels (Revelation 4:6-7, 9:14).

Because the square is stationary, it rests upon the earth. George H. Steinmetz reasons that a square was the symbol of the material or physical, and it has been used as a symbol of the material man also. Referring to the simple square that is used to measure material planes and surfaces, it too represents the earth or material things. As already mentioned, the first degree alludes to the material man; and it is interesting to note that the apron is shaped at the bottom like a square, and the bib is shaped like a triangle.

Let us observe a few other points on the square or number four. In the Royal Arch degree, we find that the sacred word is discovered. It is called the "Tetragrammaton". This word is derived from the word "Tetractys" which means "four". This word alludes to Jehovah, which, according to Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, is "of all the significant words of Freemasonry, by far the most important. In Hebrew it consists of four letters (Yod-He-Vau-He) and hence is called the Tetragrammaton, or four letter name...". (pg. 501). This word refers to the four basic elements of the universe that are present in this material world, i.e., water, fire, air, earth.

Manly P. Hall explains in his book "The Secret Teachings of All Ages" that the word Jehovah alludes to the material. He writes, "Some Gnostics were of the opinion that the Jewish God, Jehovah was the Demiargus. This concept, under a slightly different name, apparently influenced medieval Rosicrucianism, which viewed Jehovah as the Lord of the material universe, rather than as the Supreme Deity." (Chapter 25).

The number four as a number alluding to the material nature and material knowledge, is explained by the Rosicrucians as representing the four material kingdoms: Mineral life, plant life, animal life, and human life. At the base of the great pyramid we also find four squares.

The New Testament is a narration of four books about the life of Jesus, who was supposedly nailed to the cross which points in four directions. According to the Bible, Jesus was placed in materialism, the grave or cave. Jesus died in the form of a cross, four 90 degree angles. The book says he was nailed to the cross. Think about this. The human being has nails in his hands and feet. They are called fingernails and toenails. The Holy Qur'an says "*in the creation of the heavens and the earth, in the alternation of the night and day as well as in yourselves are instructive signs for those who reflect.* " If we extend our arms and cross our legs we will form a cross, four squares, 90 degree angles.

This is illustrated by the sign of the Good Shepherd. The Holy Qur'an says ALLAH created the material earth in "four periods". If we observe the human body from the shoulder to the waist we will see that it is a square.

ALLAH says in the Holy Qur'an that Abraham was instructed to take "*four birds or four portions of a bird and place them on four mountains* ". Although birds represent "spiritual development," the four mountains represent the "material concern". Placing the birds on top the mountain means "placing the spiritual above the material". It only means the spiritual is above, symbolized by the bird which is in the sky and the mountain which represents the earth. They are to be together. According to the Dictionary of Esoteric Words, four represents "solid things".

The Holy Shrine in Makka, the Kaaba, is a four part figure, a square. It sits in a circle. The Chapter in the Qur'an which discusses the Kaaba and the custodian of the Kaaba, "The Quraish" consists of four ayats. There may be a connection with the four ayats and the fact that the Kaaba is a square.

The square and the number four are extremely important symbols in the life of man and in symbolism. It should be clear that they represent materialism. Let us now consider the number five.

Five represents the rational and spiritual nature and wisdom. The Holy Prophet Muhammad received the Holy Qur'an from on high. The first revelation consists of five ayats. It is reported that The Prophet said the angel Gabriel encircled him. He said every where he looked Gabriel was all around him. Five represents a circle. If the human being extends his arms and legs he forms a circle with five points. The head, the two hands and two feet. If we draw a line from each point it will make a circle.

The compass is used to draw circles. The compass unlike the square can be adjusted to different degrees and angles. It has movement. Likewise for circular objects. All circular objects can roll. The Bible says someone rolled the round stone away. The planets, moon etc. in the sky or heavens, appear round, not square,

they are in motion. Therefore, the circle has been identified by the Ancients as representing the spiritual nature, the heavenly or higher order.

In many cases it has been used as a symbol of the creation. In the human anatomy the highest part is a circle, the head. The feet which form a square are on the earth while the head is in the sky or upper parts. This is to tell us that the human being is both material and spiritual and that these two aspects work together in our body. It is reported that Prophet Muhammad came down from heaven with five prayers.

Now that we can see that the number four represents the square and/or the material and five represents the circle or spiritual our rational and logical conclusion is that nine (9) represents the union of the material and spiritual 4 + 5 = 9. September is the ninth month. It is the month of the Libra which is represented in the Zodiac by scales. Our concern is with balance.

CHAPTER II

THE AMERICAN ONE DOLLAR BILL

In keeping with our discussion on material and spiritual balance, let us draw our attention to the various symbols that appear on the dollar bill.

The dollar bill was designed by Freemasons and those influenced by Masonic symbolism. It is obvious that they had a keen knowledge of symbolism and the spiritual science. Manly P. Hall explains in his book The Secret Teachings of All Ages that "Careful analysis of the seal discloses a mass of occult and Masonic symbols ..."

If anyone doubts the presence of Masonic and occult influences at the time the Great Seal was designed, he should give due consideration to the comments of Professor Charles Eliott Norton of Harvard, who wrote concerning the unfinished pyramid and the all-seeing eye which adorned the reverse of the seal: "...Not only were many of the founders of the United States Government Masons, but they received aid from a secret and august body existing in Europe, which helped them to establish this country for a peculiar and particular purpose known only to the initiated few" (Chapter XC, XCI).

Observe the following:

FRONT

BACK

The dollar bill is a four sided figure its overall shape is a rectangle. It is oblong. The Masonic lodge is shaped and formed in the same way. "The form of a Lodge-room should be that of a parallelogram or oblong square, at least one-third larger from East to West than it is from North to South" (Masonic Encyclopedia, pg. 602).

Another point of interest is that the Islamic prayer rug is generally rectangle in shape, not a perfect square. It is an oblong square. The prayer rug symbolizes spiritual ascension and spiritual consideration. This is where the western idea of a flying carpet comes from. Salat or prayer, although in Islam it has a spiritual focus, involves the total make-up of man. When a Muslim makes his prayer properly he is ascending and focusing on higher values and principles. He is focusing on the Creator. Therefore, he is flying above the gravitational pull of the lower life.

The connection of the prayer rug and what it alludes to, and the American dollar bill, is that they have spiritual and material connotations. The Islamic prayer requires physical movements called rakahs. It is a physical exercise and it also requires rational or mental discipline. The Muslim is required to recite chapters or verses from the holy book, the Qur'an. To do this you most be mentally Alert. *"O ye who believe! Approach not prayers with a mind*

befogged until ye can understand all that ye say..." (H.Q. 4:43). The prayer brings spiritual and physical balance and harmony to life and the symbols on the dollar bill, as we will further explain, points to spiritual and material balance and insight.

THE FRONT

On the front of the dollar is a picture of George Washington, the first President of the United States. It is well documented that he was initiated in the Masonic Lodge at Fredericksburg,Virginia in 1752. He also served as Worshipful Master and proposed for General Grand Master of United States. It seems logical that the first President would be on the one dollar bill.

Also on the front are two small circles, one with a letter in the center the other with a key, a scale and a square in the middle. The circles are not smooth, they appear as if rays are coming off from them.

In every lodge there is a letter within a circle. In the blue lodge the letter G appears. It usually appears as if light rays are coming forth from it. Furthermore, according to Masonic wisdom each house is assigned a color and a letter. For example, the letter for the 6th and 7th degree is 0, the letter for the 23, 24 and 25th degree is N, and E is the letter for the 26th, 27th and 28th degrees. (Scottish Rite Masonry , Vol. 2)

The circle on the right side displays the scales, the square, and a key. According to Masonry the scales represent right judgement. In the 32nd degree, entitled Sublime Prince of The Royal 1 Secret, each member is asked about the scales. "What lesson was it meant to teach you?" ANSWER: "That in all my judgement and opinion of men, I should be guided solely by justice and equity."

As I have mentioned, the scales represents a balance between the material and spiritual.

THE SQUARE

Every Masonic lodge has a square and a compass on its alter. The square represents several things. It represents **virtue, reason, right thinking**.

As we have previously discussed, it represents "the material nature and material insight". Albert Mackey writes, "This is one of the most important and significant symbols in Freemasonry... It is simply the trying square of a stone-mason, and has a plain surface; the sides or legs embracing an angle of ninety degrees, and is intended only to test the accuracy of the sides of a stone and to see that its edges subtend the same angle... In Freemasonry, the square is a symbol of morality.... The square, as a symbol in speculative Freemasonry, has therefore presented itself from the very beginning of the revival period." (Mackey's Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry.)

In the 4th degree entitled Secret Master, the candidate is prepared for initiation by having an apron tied over his eyes and a square on his forehead. It is later said "I see this Master who seeks the sanctuary, bears the square upon his forehead, and thereby gives assurance that reason rules his mind; but he is yet blind though he has learned to labor; shall he behold the resplendent name of God?"

The square is one of the working tools of a Fellow Craft Mason (2nd degree). The question is asked: "Are you a Fellow Craft Mason?" ANSWER: "I am, try me." QUESTION: "How will you be tried?" ANSWER: "By the square" QUESTION: "Why by the square?" ANSWER: "Because it is an emblem of morality, and one of the working tools of a Fellow Craft Mason."

THE KEY

The key represents that instrument that is used to lock or unlock the secrets of Masonry. It is symbolic of the knowledge that is needed to unlock the doors of secrecy and receive the precious jewels of wisdom and understanding. It also alludes to the Masonic "Ivory Key". In the 4th degree it is call the "key of Intellect." On the eleventh degree a key is displayed on a draft. It is said that the key "is a symbol to teach you to keep religiously in your heart the secrets with which you are entrusted, as it is a sacred trust that these illustrious brethren have reposed in you".

The Holy Bible reports that Jesus said,*"Woe unto you, lawyer! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye.entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered"* (Luke 11:52). *"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"* (Matthew 16 :19).

The Holy Qur'an states, *"To Him (God) belong the keys of the heavens and the earth: He enlarges and restricts The Substance to whom He will: for He knows full well all things"* (42:12)

It is interesting to note that on the same circle is the date that George Washington took the oath of office and was inaugurated as the first President of the United States. (The date was 1789).

COLOR

In the 5th degree of Masonry (Perfect Master's) we find this dialogue "What is the color of your lodge? ANSWER: "Green" QUESTION: Why green? ANSWER: "To remind me that by being dead to vice I must hope to rise to virtue and by that to attain the last degree in order to make some progress in the Sublime Science, a knowledge which I hope one day to possess." (According to that dialogue green represents virtue which is a necessary step on the path towards knowledge.) QUESTION:

"Who can communicate it to you?" ANSWER: "God Alone, whose knowledge is beyond human comprehension." The Bible says God taught the man, Adam. He said, "*Let there be light and there was light... (Genesis 1:3)*. According to that dialogue green represents virtue which is a necessary step on the path towards knowledge. In Chapter 2 Verse 31 of the Holy Qur'an it reads, "*And He taught Adam the nature of all things...*" The Bible also says King Solomon prayed to God for wisdom.

The color green represents several things, "fertility, life, youth, and prosperity". It represents the new American life. It alludes to the youthful birth of this country. More importantly, green symbolizes the early stages of human growth and development as well as the dawning of mental enlightenment. The Holy Qur'an explains how Allah can bring fire (wisdom) from a young naive (green) person or community. He says "*He is knower of all creation who produced fire for you out of the green tree....*" (H.Q. 36:79,80)

It is reported that Jesus said, "*For if they do these things in a green tree what shall be done in the dry* ?" (Luke 23:31). It can be understood from this that if the great symbols and wisdom that we find before our eyes are on the dollar bill, which we see every day but are not aware of, then one can only imagine how much more we don't see that is hidden or drawn in dry.

Green is obvious, and open; there is plenty of green grass and plants. Green also represents eternal life which is usually symbolized by the evergreen tree or the acica plant used in Freemasonry. Sarah H. Terry explains in her Eastern Star book, The Second Mile that "Green-consecrated to Martha, leads the chastened spirit through and beyond the grave to all that is animating, the true thought of a resurrection.... It is the garb of nature, and thus represents life, because it is associated with springtime. It means immortality of the soul and is symbolic of youth" (pg. 70).

IN GOD WE TRUST

On the reverse side of the one dollar bill above the word one are the words "In God We Trust." According to Masonic teaching, belief in God is a must.

In the 3rd degree (Master Mason's degree) the question is asked "In whom do you put your trust?" The answer is "God". Many Masonic authorities agree that Masonry advances the One God concept and not the Christian idea of three Gods. Actually the message in the center of the reverse side of the dollar is oneness, wholeness, unity, tawheed ; "In One God We Trust." That is to say that the material life and the spiritual life work together as one, in union. More importantly it is consistent with the teaching of the Bible and the Qur'an. "*Hear, O Israel: Thy Lord our God is one Lord* " . (Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4)

The Qur'an says "*Say He is Allah (God) the One and Only* " (112 :1). In Chapter 5 Verse 76 it reads "*They do blaspheme who say: God is one of three in a Trinity: for there is no god except One God.* " (Holy Qur'an)

Lamont Dixon points out in his book, The Geometrical Man, "Just as there is 'One' in each corner of the dollar bill, God's spirit is in 'each corner' of the 'lodge', as well as in the center-from East to West. North to South, earth to heaven. Not only does this vast extension denote the universality of Freemasonry, it especially denotes the universality of God, for He is the maker of all Things." (pg. 17).

THE CORNERS

There are eight corners each of which has the number one (1). There are four ones on the front, and four on the back or reverse side. Some may argue that there are only four corners, however anyone can see that the number one (1) appears eight times. The four ones on the front are encased, whereas the ones on

the back are not encased. Our concern is the significance of the number eight.

The number eight is said to represent a new beginning, resurrection (The Second Mile). Vera Stanley Alder writes, "In number eight, man having found his own soul and the power within him must turn to earth-life once more and learn to combine the two. So eight gives power, organization and constructive leadership, backed by spiritual inspiration."

Imam W. Deen Muhammad explained the number eight as "representing the ability to apply the insight into the scientific order of the universe. It represents application, the ability to make your knowledge work in the world." (Imam W. D. Muhammad Speaks from Harlem, New York, pg. 52).

Manly P. Hall in his discussion of the number eight explains that it re-establishes the monad. He points out that the eight (8) is divided by two 4s, each 4 is divided by two 2s, and each 2 is divided by two 1s, which represent wholeness. He further explains that 8 "was sacred because it was the number of the first cube, which form had eight corners, and was the only evenly even number under 10." (Secret Teachings of All Ages)

Allah reveals in the Holy Qur'an the importance of the number eight. He says, "*And eight will, that day bear the Throne of the Lord above them.*" (H.Q. 69:17). Abdullah Yusuf Ali explains in his commentary on Qur'an, that the significance of the number eight must refer to the shape of the throne. He also points out that the Oriental Throne is often octagonal, and its bearers would be one at each corner, totaling eight. He states, "or if it is a square throne there might be four bearers, and four in relief at any given time making eight in all." (Note 5651).

In an earlier verse of the Qur'an, Allah says concerning the furious winds that destroyed the Ad people, "*He made it rage against them seven nights and eight days in succession....* (This chapter 69:6 is called Haqqa or, The Sure Reality, or Truth) . We also find in the history of Prophet Muhammad that it is reported that

he ascended to the seventh heaven and that he met eight Prophets (1) Adam, (2) Jesus, (3) John, (4) Joseph, (5) Enoch, (6) Aaron, (7) Moses and (8) Abraham (Sahih Muslim p. 102). It is further reported that he returned with the five prayers. As stated earlier the dollar is shaped like the Muslim or Islamic prayer rug.

In Islam the most important position during salat (prayer) is sajda (prostration). In this position eight points of the body touch the ground: Two feet, two knees, two hands, nose and forehead.

THE PYRAMID AND THE EAGLE; MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL VISION

Before discussing the Pyramid and the Eagle as separate symbols, let us first consider them as a union together. The message of their unity is reflected by the words that are inscribed under the circles in which they are enclosed. The words "The Great Seal" are written under the circle that encompasses the pyramid. Left alone and separate, one could be led to believe that the pyramid is the "Great Seal". However, most people will agree that it is not, and that these words by themselves do not express the complete idea or message. In order for the statement to be complete the words "of The United States" (Which are written under the circle that encloses the eagle) must be added.

There must be unity for the message or statement to be fully expressed together. It reads, "The Great Seal of the United States". A "state" is also "a condition of mind, and an attitude". The pyramid represents a certain state of mind and the eagle represents another state of mind; bring them together and you have "United States." According to Webster's Dictionary the word state has several meanings, one of which is "a condition of a person or thing; a condition of circumstances, etc..."

Looking at the eagle and the pyramid together, we can see the important idea of unity and oneness. The eagle, or bird, is a symbol of spiritual vision or spiritual wisdom and discipline because it flies in the sky or heavens. A bird is not confined to the material earth. The eagle is well known for its great vision and swiftness, therefore it represents spiritual vision. However, the pyramid which is confined to the material earth and is itself a mass of solid material, represents material concerns and material vision. The eye over the pyramid suggests vision. What kind of vision? Material vision. As mentioned the pyramid and the eagle are both enclosed in a circle. A circle symbolizes completion, thus, it is concluded that taken together they represent material and spiritual wholeness, or completion. The vision is balanced; there is equilibrium.

As human beings, we have two eyes but one vision, two nostrils but one smell, two ears but one sound. Freemasonry tells us of two pillars that represent the celestial, heavenly or spiritual, and the terrestrial (material).

According to the Craft's teachings there were two pillars at the entrance of Solomon's Temple call Boaz and Jachin. It is reported that these pillars had circles on them. The Holy Bible tells us that Jesus took some of his disciples up on a hill and showed them "two circular lights", one of Elijah and one of Moses. The story says that "the two lights came together and formed one". This is called the transfiguration. (Matthew 17:1-4, Mark 9:1-5).

The Bible says Elijah went to heaven "full body and soul". Therefore, he represents the heavenly or the spiritual and Moses represents the material because he established the material law. He was a master builder. Taken together Moses and Elijah represent the same idea that we find on the American one dollar bill. In Freemasonry the question is asked "Why did our ancient brothers meet in high hills and low valleys?" ANSWER: "To better protect against eavesdroppers and cowans."

Wilmhurst says this means they had a knowledge of the higher and lower science and mysteries. The material and spiritual science. In fact in the 18th degree the sign of reconciliation is given

by pointing the finger to the sky. The answer sign is given by pointing one finger to the earth. He writes, "On the highest hills and in the lowest valleys, which is merely a figure of speech for saying, first, that they have been taught in circumstances of the greatest seclusion and secrecy, and secondly, that they have been taught in both advance and simple forms according to the understanding of their disciples." (The Meaning of Masonry, pg. 23)

The same idea is expressed in the Master Mason's pass word "**Tubal-Cain**". This word is symbolically expressed by two balls and a cain. The two balls represent the duality of knowledge, the dual nature. And the cain alludes to the support that one gets from his knowledge, it is a staff. The Bible and Masonry says of Tubal-Cain that he was the first inventor of curious smith-work, and of metalic operations by fire and was the eighth man from Adam. In Genesis V.22 it reads, "*And Zillah, she also bare Tu-bal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron...*" Tubal cain, then has material (Iron) and spiritual (brass) understanding.

Steinmetz points out "Tubal cain was an instructor of every artificer on both the material and spiritual planes. The Lost Word its Hidden Meaning (pg. 49). Because iron is more solid and inflexible or physical, it has been used as a symbol of material. Brass is yellowish, flexible, more yielding than iron, and it symbolizes spiritual things. Therefore, Tubal cain has a knowledge of the two and he united that knowledge. He was the eighth man which means he knew how to apply the knowledge in the world. The Bible says he was an "instructor". This should tell us that there really should not be a separation of Church and state, a separation of the secular and the religious knowledge.

In the religion of Islam there is not a separate spiritual and rational knowledge. The human being and the human society is seen as one unit.The material and spiritual are essential parts of one whole. The "Monad is the parent of every triad" said the ancient philosophers.

THE EAGLE

Symbolically speaking birds have always represented the spiritual discipline. The bald eagle, the phoenix and the hawk seem to hold an even greater position in the symbolism. In observing the American bald eagle on the one dollar bill, we notice that it is looking eastward, at the pyramid, which is on the left hand side.

In Masonic symbolism the east is considered as the place of light, wisdom and science. The Mason looks to the east, he travels from west to east in search of light. The leader of the lodge (Worshipful Master) sits in the east. In the book entitled , Look To The East by R. P. Lester, we find the words of the Ritual which states "What is the Worshipful Master's station in the Lodge?" ANSWER: "In the East". In the 3rd degree (Master Mason's degree) we find this dialogue: QUESTION: "From whence come you and where are you traveling?" ANSWER: "From the West and traveling to the East." In the 24th degree (Prince of The Tabernacle) are these words: "Where come you?" ANSWER: "Out of darkness" QUESTION: "And where go you?" ANSWER: "To the East, the place of light and the cradle of the mysteries."

The noted Masonic scholar Albert G. Mackey explains, "The east has always been considered peculiarly sacred. This was without exception, the case in all the Ancient Mysteries." We also find that the camp of Judah was placed in the East by Moses, as a mark of honor and distinction. The Bible also tells us of some wise men who came from the East. Referring to the birth of Jesus, the Eastern Stars say, "I have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

The East has great significance and symbolic meaning in its reference to the spiritual life of man. In Scriptural symbology, east represents the within (Metaphysical Bible Dictionary). Many Masonic writers agree that the east represents the spiritual birthplace of man, and that the west alludes to the material embodiment or lodging place for the spirit or soul of man. Traveling from west to east refers to man's desire to get back to his original nature. The

Bible speaks of the fall of man. It says he was East of the Garden of Eden. The Qur'an says, "get ye down from here into the earth...". Masonically, Wilmhurst says, "All human life, having originated in the mystical "East" and journeyed in this world which, with us, is the West, must return again to its source." (The Meaning of Masonry pg. 48)

The astute Masonic scholar J.D. Buck, M.D., F.T.S., S.R. 33, explained in his Symbolism or Mystic Masonry that, "It is therefore high time that the philosophy of the East should illumine the science of the West, and give the death blow to the intellectual diabolism and Spiritual nihilism known as Materialism...". He further writes, "All writers, however, agree in the conclusion that the symbols and tradition of freemasonry came from the far East and go back to the remotest antiquity" (pg. 51, 139).

It should be noted once again that many of those who formed the various committees that were responsible for the design of the dollar bill were Masons. The reader should also bear in mind that a great number (approximately 18) of the Presidents of this country were Masons, and that many of the Vice Presidents, as well as those who signed the Declaration of Independence and framed the Constitution, were Masons and Shriners.

The idea of looking and traveling to the east not only has spiritual and esoteric meaning, but literal, historic and modern-day significance. "So that the saying that the Mason journeys from West to East in search of light is literally true." History reveals that the leaders of western ideas, the Greeks traveled east into Egypt to learn the great wisdom and high sciences of the wise sagas. History also tells us that the Western world received its burst of scientific enlightenment from the Islamic world of the East, from the Holy Qur'an. According to the Shriners' wisdom, each Shriner travels east to worship at the shrine of Islam in MAKKA.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and other prominent men were/are Shriners. In the Shriners' ritual and recognition test are these words: "Are you a noble of the Mystic Shrine?" ANSWER: "I have traveled the Arabic Path." QUESTION: "You are a noble, then I

presume? " ANSWER: "I am so accepted by all men of noble birth." QUESTION: "Have you traveled any?" ANSWER: "I have." QUESTION: "From where to what place have you traveled?" ANSWER: "Traveled to East, over the hot burning sands of the desert." QUESTION: "Where were you stopped at?" ANSWER: "At the Devil's pass." QUESTION: "What were you requested to do?" ANSWER: "I was requested to contribute a few drops of urine." QUESTION: "Why were you requested to do this?" ANSWER: "As a token of my renouncing the wiles and evils of the world, and be granted permission to worship at the shrine." QUESTION: "At what shrine did you worship?" ANSWER: "**At the Shrine of Islam.**" QUESTION: "Did you ride?" ANSWER: "Yes, I rode a camel, until I was caused to dismount." QUESTION: "Then what did you do with your camel?" ANSWER: "I tied him." QUESTION: "Where did you tie him?" ANSWER: "I tied him to a date tree where all true and good Shriners so do."

We will discuss the significance of the Shriner's dialogue and the historical reality of travelling East in a subsequent chapter. Let us return back to the eagle.

Not only is the eagle looking East, but we find that the number thirteen (13) is all around it. It is believed that the number 13 represents the 13 original colonies. We observe that there are 13 stars above the eagle's head, 13 stripes on the shield in front of the eagle, 13 arrows in the eagle's claw, 13 leaves and berries on the olive branch, and 13 letters in the motto "E Pluribus Unum" (out of many one) which is in he mouth or beak of the eagle. The number 13 has great significance in Masonic symbolism and scriptural interpretation.

The wings appear as though they are connected to the shield and are extending from it. The eagle as a symbol of the American government displays the three branches of government. The head represents the Chief Executive office or the Executive Branch. The words "E Pluribus Unum" in the mouth means that the Chief Executive speaks for the people. The shield represents the Congress or the Legislative Branch; the two wings allude to the Senate and the

House of Representatives. Lastly, the nine feathered tail represents the Judicial Branch or he nine judges on the Supreme Court.

THE DOUBLE HEADED EAGLE

The Scottish Rite Order of Freemasonry has as its great seal, the double-headed eagle with a golden crown resting upon both heads. The double heads represent the Masonic Empire of the East and West.

Mackey tells us that the double-headed eagle was first adapted in Freemasonry as a symbol in 1758. It was in that year when the council of the Emperors of the East and West was established. It is also believed that the double-headed eagle alludes to the nature of man. The head that looks to the East is symbolic of man's spiritual vision, and the looking towards the West refers to his material vision.

The Masonic order attempts to initiate or teach man the material or human science and the spiritual sciences in imitation of the Ancient Egyptian Mystery Systems that taught man the "lesser" and "greater" mysteries.

The eagle or bird has extreme symbolic meaning. The thing that is most outstanding about a bird is its wings, which gives it the ability to fly and to glide in the sky. The Creator revealed in the HOLY QUR'AN these words, "*Do they not observe the birds above them , Spreading their wings and folding them in? None can uphold them except ALLAH, Most Gracious: Truly it is He that watches over all things.*" (67 :19).

In the Islamic call to prayer, the Adhan, the caller (Muadhdhin) turns his head to the right and says, "Come to prayer" (twice). Then he turns his head to the left and says, "Come to cultivation" (twice). This call has great meaning for the life and education of man. It beckons man to refine and cleanse his soul and spirit by praising the Creator, and it reminds man of his duty to

cultivate his mind and his social life. The double headed eagle is looking to the left and to the right. As we mentioned, the eagle (bird) represents the spiritual, and the East also represents a spiritual state.

The Muslim call to prayer beckons man twice to come to prayer, and twice to come to mental and material cultivation. This gives us four calls in total, two to the right and two to the left. ALLAH says in the Qur'an that he is the Lord of the two Easts and the two Wests: *"He is Lord of the two Easts and Lord of the two Wests."* (55:17). The Creator is the Lord of the physical East and the spiritual East (nature), the physical West and the material nature symbolized by the West. He is Rabb (Lord) of all the worlds.

The Qur'an also tells us that when Abraham asked ALLAH to show him how the dead would be raised, ALLAH told him to take four birds, train them and place them on mountains, then call them and they will return (2:2).

The Muslim also ends his prayer by turning his head to the right saying, "As-Salaam-Alaikum-wa Rahmatullah" (Peace be upon you and the mercy of ALLAH); and he turns his head to the left and repeats it. ALLAH says, "Behold, two (guardian angels) appointed to learn his doings (and note them), one sitting on the right and one on the left" (H.Q. 50:17).

In ancient times the great Pharaohs wore a double crown, representing upper and lower Egypt. Some of them had a double headed serpent. Upper Egypt, as we will explain in more detail later, was concerned with the higher sciences of man and the universe; while lower Egypt focused on the lower or concrete rational sciences. Let us now turn over our attention to the Pyramids.

THE PYRAMID

We should ask ourselves, "Why is there a picture of the pyramid on the American One Dollar Bill?".

The pyramid on the dollar bill represents the Great Pyramid of Gizah, built by Khufu (Cheops), and other great African builders and architects.

The pyramids are in the East. The pyramid on the dollar bill is to the left of the bald eagle (symbol of America, the West). The fact that the pyramid is to the left is very significant when reviewed in light of Masonic dialogue.

In the 5th degree (Perfect Master) of Scottish Rite Masonry there is a conversation that takes place between two individuals: one named Adoniram and the other named Stolkin. Adoniram asks, **"What is the meaning of the two pyramids on the left?"** Stolkin replies: **"Egypt, where the sciences first took their rise."** Question: "What signifies your Jewel?' REPLY: "That a Perfect Master should act within measure and always be attentive to justice and equity." QUESTION: "What's your pass-word?" ANSWER: "Acacia." QUESTION: "What is the meaning of that word?" REPLY: "It is the name of the plant that was placed on the grave of Hiram Abiff..."

In the 31st degree of Masonry are these words: "To us, as Masonic judges, the triangle figures for the pyramids, which planted firmly as the everlasting hills and accurately adjusted to the four cardinal points, defiant of all assaults of men and time, teach us to stand firm and unshaken as they, when our feet are planted upon the solid truth. It includes a multitude of geometrical figures, all having a deep significance to Masons." (Scottish Rite Masonry, Vol.1, 2).

In observing the pyramid on the one dollar bill we see that at the base are four corners and an acacia plant which represents eternal life. Each corner forms a square or angle of ninety degrees, 90 degrees. The four angles give us the circumference of a circle, 360 degrees. This alone speaks to the in depth knowledge of geometry that the great builders of the pyramid must have had. This is known as squaring the circle. J. Munsell Chase in his book The Riddle of the Sphinx writes, "It solved absolutely the problem of the **squaring of the circle**. The vertical height of the Great Pyramid

is the radius of a theoretical circle, the length of whose circumference is equal to the sum of the lengths of the four sides of its base." (pg. 20).

We also find that the Great Pyramid is located in the exact center of the earth's surface. Researchers tell us that a close study of the pyramids reveals such information as the distance of the earth from the sun, the weight of the earth, and that its weight per square yard is related to the weight of water, as is the average weight of the earth to the same substance.

Dixon explains that one pyramid (Cheops) alone, contains more stones than all the cathedrals, churches and chapels in England since the time of Christ (The Geometrical Man). The pyramids were built thousands and thousands of years ago. They were built at a time when Greece and the whole western world groped in mental darkness and savagery. Modern scientists are completely baffled by the precision and accuracy of the Pyramids. The immensity of the task involved in the pyramids' construction, and the microscopic exactness with which those tasks were performed, amazes the human mind and intellect. Many have asked, "How was it done; and why was it done"?

Johnson in a sense of bewilderedness writes, "Imagine it: a gigantic jigsaw puzzle of nearly 2,500,000 pieces, some of which were as heavy as a railway locomotive. Not only that, but the pieces were first quarried from places as distant as 500 miles away. Each piece has to be cut, then carefully shaped to interlock with its neighbors on four sides. It had to be transported to the site and placed in precisely the correct position... It is apparent that the Egyptians had truly enormous reserves of labor upon which to draw. The historian Herodotus might well have been correct in giving a labor force of 100,000 for the building of the Great Pyramid.... Archaeological evidence indicates that a permanent labor force of some 4,000 formed the core of the manpower." (The Ancient magic of The Pyramids pg. 104 & 107).

Dr. Na'im Akbar explains in an in-depth lecture entitled the "Egyptian Connection" some of the unique features of the Great Pyramids: "When you talk about the pyramid, you are talking about the structure that is thirteen acres at the base with a height of 460 feet, which is forty-eight stories tall... There is less than a fraction of an inch of error anywhere within the structure." He further explained that the pyramid of Cheops, which is on the dollar bill, was built about 2600 B.C. "The pyramid is located in the center of the earth's mass. If all of the water was removed and the earth's mass was pushed together, then the center of that mass would be the great pyramid of Cheops...."

The pyramids display a great wealth of knowledge and science that appears to be beyond modern man's comprehension. It not only reflects the keen understanding and appreciation that the great builder had for the physical, material environment, but it also reveals their vast knowledge of the human sciences.

Further investigation and discussion will show that the ancient wise men of Egypt were greatly concerned with the mental and spiritual progression of man towards enlightenment. They understood the correlation between the Macrocosm and the Microcosm. History tells us that in Ancient Egypt there existed various mystery systems that were designed to introduce and educate its "elects" into the higher knowledge of human development, immortality of the soul, and the monotheistic (one) concept of the Creator.

In Egypt there were two main mystery systems: the Osirian and the Isisian mystery system. One taught what is called the Great Mysteries and the other the Lesser Mysteries; just as modern Freemasonry has what it calls the Lower Degrees and the Higher Degrees; the three Lesser Lights and the three Great Lights. Osiris was perceived and conceived by the Ancient Egyptian as the god of omnipotence and omniscience who ruled all of Egypt. He was represented by an open eye and the sun.

According to the legend, Osiris as King of Egypt, applied himself to the civilizing of his nation. It is reported that he taught

them agriculture and established a code of conduct and ethics. He instructed them in the reverencing and worship of God. Thus establishing Egypt in all the essentials of truth. Osiris, after having established Egypt on a sound foundation, travelled over the rest of the world converting others to his discipline, not by force but by persuasion of reason.

C.W. Leadbeater in his writings in the Ancient Mystic Rites discusses the various mystery systems that existed in Ancient Egypt. He points out that: "Isis, to whom the Lesser Mysteries were ascribed, was not only the universal feminine principle expressed in nature, but also a real and very lofty Being... She by virtue of her high development and office was able to represent the Feminine aspect of the Diety to man... The moon was her symbol... Osiris was the embodiment of God the Father in a mighty Planetary Spirit... His out-pouring was a dazzling glory of light shot through with gold, like the rays of the sun caught upon the surface of a lake." (pg. 18,19).

We find in the Lesser Mysteries that the initiates were taught the concept of life-after-death and the ceremony of initiates was a symbolic map of the intermediate world which is sometimes called the astral plane. The teachings were given under solemn and binding pledges of secrecy. The essential outline of the mystery systems was embodied in the ritual of Initiation, Passing and Raising, and it is these rituals which have in part descended to many of the ceremonies of Freemasonry.

Leadbeater says, "The Mysteries of Egypt were, as ever divided into two main sections: the Lesser and the Greater. The Lesser Mysteries are typified to some extent by what we now know as the First Degree. The Greater Mysteries were analogous to what we now call the Second and Third Degrees."

George G. M. James in his book Stolen Legacy discusses the curriculum of the Egyptian Mystery System. He tells us that the initiates were also instructed in the Seven Liberal Acts, the secret systems of language and mathematical symbolism, the science of the 42 Books of Hermes.

It is obvious that the ancient people of North Africa were blessed with great insights. As we now turn our attention back to the pyramid on the dollar bill, we will be able to further see why it is there and why the eagle (the symbol of the West) is looking east at the pyramid for light and understanding. The pyramid gives us a profound picture of human development and spiritual ascension.

*** The reader should bear in mind that at the time the pyramid was being considered as a symbol to be placed on the dollar bill, that the descendents of those Master Builders who constructed the great pyramid were being treated as animals and declassified as human beings, oppressed and denied their God given rights as free and independent men and woman; they were being lynched and torched by some of the very people who marvelled at the pyramid. Lies were being published about their genetic and hereditary inferiority. The Master Builder was slain and buried in the Western Hemisphere, under the rubbish of hatred, bigotry and torture.**

Count Constantier de Volney echoed similar concerns, when in the late 1700's upon his return from Egypt he stated....."Just think that this race of Black men, today our slaves and the object of our scorn, is the very race to which we owe our arts, sciences and even the use of speech! Just imagine, finally, that it is in the midst of peoples who call themselves the greatest friends of liberty and humanity that one has approved the most barbarous slavery and questioned whether black men have the same kind of intelligence as Whites! (The African Origin of Civilization, page 28).

Joseph A. Walkes, Jr. in his Black Square and Compass presents the words of Martin R. Delaney concerning the African origin of Freemasonry: "But to deny to black men the privileges of Masonry, is to deny to a child the lineage of its own parentage. From whence sprung Masonry but from Ethiopia, Egypt and Assyria, all settled and peopled by children of Ham?" According to Leadbeater, "Egypt was thus the center of spiritual illumination for the entire western world and all those who sought the Great

Initiations were attracted to it; and it is this fact which explains the reverence paid to the Egyptian Mysteries by learned Greeks in later time."

In the Masonic Quiz Book we find questions and answers concerning the Ancient Egyptians and the Great Pyramids: "From what people are most of our Masonic symbols taken?" ANSWER: "From the Egyptians, who formed the world's oldest civilization." QUESTION: "What country of ancient times was the cradle of all the mysteries?" ANSWER: "At one time Egypt was in possession of all the learning and religion that was to be found in the world. It extended to other nations the influence of its sacred rites and esoteric doctrines." QUESTION: "Who built the Pyramid of Gizah and for what purpose?" ANSWER: "Khufu, for the study of the stars." QUESTION: "What are the dimensions of the Great Pyramid of Gizah?" ANSWER: "Its base is 761 feet 8 inches on each side and it is 485 feet high. It was built of large stones, none less than thirty feet long and five feet square quarried at a great distance, transported hundreds of miles, crossing the river Nile, and raised to their lofty position in the structure by methods unknown to the engineers of today." QUESTION: "What is Alchemy?" ANSWER: "A so-called division of chemistry, treating of the art of transmutation of baser metals into gold." QUESTION: "By what other name was the science of Alchemy called?" ANSWER: "The Hermetic Philosophy, because it is said to have been first taught by Hermes Trismegistus in Egypt." QUESTION: "Who was Pythagoras?" ANSWER: "One of the most celebrated of the Greek philosophers....." QUESTION: "How many years did Pythagoras have to wait for initiation into the hidden mysteries of Egypt?" ANSWER: "Twenty (20) years." QUESTION: "What is the forty-seventh (47th) problem of Euclid?" ANSWER: "In any right angled triangle, the square which is described upon the side subtending the right angle, is equal to the squares described upon the sides which contain the right angle." QUESTION: "To whom were the Greeks indebted for their inspiration in architecture?" ANSWER: "From the great builders in Egypt."

Now that we have established and discussed the great significance and contribution that the ancient wise of Egypt, i.e.

Northeast Africa, have made not only to the West but to the entire globe, one could better understand why a picture of the pyramid which embodies a wealth of physical and spiritual wisdom is on the American dollar bill. I am of the opinion, however, that the spiritual and symbolic meaning of the pyramid is of great magnitude because it speaks to the very soul and essence of man. It alludes to the progressive development of the human mind and spirit. It reflects the intrinsic worth and the urge in man for mental vision and enlightenment.

SYMBOLIC MEANING OF PYRAMID

"Nothing grows out of space down from air. Everything grows out of the ground upwards. Our ancient fathers had this knowledge of the natural world and their sign was the pyramid... This kind of knowledge was known to the people of Ancient Egypt. Ancient Egypt built great pyramids and they knew the psychological nature and composition of man." Imam W. Deen Muhammad

In observing the pyramid on the dollar bill we see the major geometrical figures: the square, the circle, and the triangle. At the base of the pyramid we find four angles or squares. These four angles or corners symbolically represent the four basic elements of the universe: fire, air, water and earth (material) . In the ancient mystery systems the candidate was tested by each element during his initiation in order to prove his worth. In the 24th degree of Freemasonry we find this same ceremony. The candidate is tested by fire (A lighted candle is placed to his arm). He is then conducted to the south where a few drops of water is poured upon his head. From there he is taken to the West where he is made to kneel on some sand or gravel, which represents the earth. Lastly he is taken to the East where he is tested by air (from blowing fans). Each of these elements are represented by a certain sign or movement of the body:

EARTH SIGN: Wipe forehead with the back of the right hand.

WATER SIGN: The right hand is placed upon the heart, let it fall on the right side, as if to salute with the hand.

FIRE SIGN: Both hands are joined by interlocking the fingers, and covering the eyes, palms turned outwards.

AIR SIGN: Extend the right arm and hand forward at the height at the shoulder.

The base of the pyramid points in the four directions, North, East, South and West. representing the universal constitution of man and various levels of knowledge.

In the ancient mystery systems the student would enter the pyramids from one of these corners. However, in order to enter he needed the correct pass-word. The four corners or squares not only represented the four elements, but what the elements meant in relationship to man. For example, the EARTH represented man's material vision, material needs, material knowledge that was received in the sensory body through the five senses. The WATER represents man's moral nature, cleanliness and his ability to communicate, because water was also used as a means of sending or transporting messages from one side of the river to the other. Even today we send mail by way of water. The FIRE represents wisdom because as fire breaks down matter to its elementary or original substance, so does wisdom allow man to see behind the apparent or obvious. Wisdom allows one to see and understand the functional operations. AIR represents the spiritual nature and development in man. These aspects in man have been identified under various names.

As we mentioned, the Tetragrammaton is expressed by four: Yod-He-Vau-He. Professor Hilton Hotema explains, "In the word which represented the four elements we have found only part of the hidden meaning of the mystic Symbolic Tetragrammaton. That part which we have found in the external aspect which deals with the four elements. . . . A greater mystery is connected with the internal phase of the symbol, which dealt with the astral aspects that rise as the products of the function of these four elements in the created body of man. These products are another one of the great mysteries of the universe. They appear as the astral qualities of (1) vitality (2) consciousness (3) mind and (4) intelligence...." (pg.26).

Freemasonry has identified these corners as four virtues, which if closely examined, will reveal the same message pertaining to human growth. **Fortitude** suggests strength, material courage and endurance, a fort. **Justice** suggests morality (water), rights and wrongs, do's and don'ts. In fact, the level which is a symbol of equality, has water or liquid. **Prudence** is reasoning, understanding and wisdom. A prudent man is a wise man. Prudence is fire. **Temperance** represents the air or spiritual, because although it is associated with passions and emotions, it is also a product of spiritual discipline; it is self restraint.

In summation, Fortitude equals earth or material concern; justice equals water or moral concern or morality; Prudence equals fire or wisdom; and Temperance equals air or spiritual. These four essential aspects of the human being were also reflected by the ancient symbols: The wand (fire), the cup (a sign for water), the sword (air), and the pentacle (earth). Also in Egypt we find these elements reflected in the great Sphinx which looks east at the rising of the sun. The Sphinx is said to represent man rising above his lower animal nature and appetites. The form of the Sphinx consists of a human face, eagle, lion and bull.

At the base we see angles or perpendiculars going upwards towards the eye and light at the top. As mentioned before, the base or four angles equal the circumference or circle which represents completion. This tells us that man's original nature is complete. It

has all that it needs to survive and make progress right within itself. It's genetic makeup has its destiny clocked in. Just as the seed has its complete life, essence, map, blueprint, and design already embedded in it, so does man have the plan for his life in him. But just as the sunlight pulls on that seed until it burst forth as a living reality and declares its existence in the open environment, so does the light of truth and understanding draw man to greater heights.

Man is created perfect by God. He is made whole and complete, although he deviates for a while from the road that leads to his great destiny. Imam Warith Deen Muhammad explained very profoundly at a lecture given in Los Angeles, California November 16, 1987:

"An inherent aim is in the soul of man, that it must seek and go after its destiny. God has given the soul a destiny: God has created man with an excellence - that excellence is in his soul, is in him when he is born.... Some people look at the fallacies in man, at the problems of man, the clumsiness of man, the lack of skills on the part of man, the ignorance of man; they look at all of the shortcomings in man, and they judge him by his errors and not by his purpose.

"They judge him by his shortcomings, and not by his destiny; they judge him by what he does in a bad situation and not by what he is created for... not by the original trends that God set in him, the trends towards excellence. So if God created me with the main urge in me, it is towards excellence. Science bears witness to this: science says that life is evolved; science tells us that the growth of life is evolution. Evolution means graduation from lower to greater, from lower to more; from simple to complex, from inferior to excellent. That is what evolution tells us."

In another lecture conducted in Cleveland Ohio on November 8, 1987, Imam W. Deen Muhammad stated, "Adam was created a perfect human creature.... Our belief is that Allah made Adam as He wanted man to be, and Adam was a human being, therefore, he could make a mistake. And the human limitations on our life does not mean that we are imperfect. So we can be perfect

human beings, without being God. A human being is not inclined to err; the human being is not attracted to error, to make errors. The attraction in the human being's life, or the pull on the human being, is not toward error; it is toward perfection".

The Holy Qur'an, in referring to the soul and original nature of man says, "*By the soul and the proportion and order given to it; and its enlightenment as to its wrong and its right; - Truly he succeeds that purifies it, and he fails that corrupts it!* " (91:7-9). The Qur'an also says, "*We have indeed created man in the best of moulds*" (95:4). And Allah also tells us that, "*He set on the (earth) mountains standing firm, high above it, and bestowed blessings on the earth, and measured therein all things to give them nourishment in due proportion, in four days, in accordance with (the needs of) those who seek sustenance.*" (41:10).

So we see that the ancient wise people understood the excellence of human nature; and they built the pyramids having four corners with angles of 90 degrees. The angles represent growth, movement upwards. Observe closely and you will see that the pyramid on the dollar bill has angles moving upwards from the base. It alludes to the Masonic catechism: "From a dead level to a living perpendicular to the square." If the readers will notice, at the front base of the pyramid on the dollar (where the roman numerals are) is a straight or horizontal line. The quickest way from point to point is a straight line. Also, most things that lie horizontally are either sleep, resting, sick or dead. Man is buried horizontally. He sleeps horizontally. The Masonic Legend says Hiram Abiff was buried six feet due east and west in a shallow grave, and that he was raised to a living perpendicular. One of the working tools of an Entered Apprentice (first degree) is the twenty four (24) inch gauge. It is used to measure flat surface objects it is a straight line, a ruler. The working tool of the Fellow Craft (2nd degree) is a square of 90 degrees. It is a horizontal line joined by a perpendicular line. It is intended to show growth from material to rational. The angles are moving up from the base of the pyramid towards the light.

This tells us that the light is drawing or pulling the life upwards, just as the sun draws the physical life towards it. Light

allows us to see, to have vision; that is why the eye is there. It represents man's desire for material, spiritual, moral and rational vision. Science tells us that the sun has an attracting pull on the waters of the earth. It draws the water up in the sky, in a fine mist that the human eye cannot detect.

The Bible says Moses was drawn from the water in Egypt. The eye represents the mind's eye that is lit with the light of truth and wisdom. Some say it represents the all-seeing eye of God. Others say it represents the eye of Osiris. If we look closer we will see that it is within a triangle, it has parameters. God's vision has no limits or parameters; man's vision does. Man cannot see outside of the vast creation. Although the triangle or capestone looks like it is separated from the pyramid itself, I would reason that it is not actually separated but is made to appear that way to send a message to the inquisitor, the thinker, concerning the source of the light. The light is not necessarily coming from the pyramid itself, the pyramid is not the source of the light. The light comes from a higher source, from God.

The Creator gave man the light, he gave man what he needed to construct the pyramid. There must be a distinction made between God and man. Concerning the source of the light, it also brings to mind what was used as a source of knowledge. The wise know that oil represents wisdom because it appears to have its own light. Therefore, the capestone looks like it is separated from the rest of the pyramid because when oil burns from a lamp the flame looks like it has no connection with the oil, or the lamp. It appears separate even though it is not.

The Bible mentions David as saying, "*Thou annointest my head with oil.*" Oil is one of the wages of a Fellow Craft Mason. Man's inner being becomes open when he is blessed with the oil of wisdom. The Holy Qur'an says concerning oil and the Light: "*God is the Light of the heavens and the earth. The parable of His Light is as if there were a Niche and within it a lamp: The Lamp enclosed in Glass: The glass as it were a brilliant star: Lit from a blessed Tree, an olive, neither of the East nor of the West, Whose Oil is well-nigh Luminous, Though fire scarce touched it: Light upon Light! God*

doth guide whom He will to His Light: God doth set forth parables for men: and God doth know all things" (25:35). Abdullah Yusuf Ali points out in his commentary that olive oil "takes a high place and deserves its sacred association. Its purity is almost like light itself: You may suppose it to be almost light before it is lit. So with spiritual Truth: it illuminates the mind and understanding imperceptibly, almost before the human mind and heart have been consciously touched by it."

The pyramid, as we mentioned, has four corners at the base, but as it comes up it forms three; the pyramid on the dollar bill shows three perpendicular angles. These three lines represent the physical, mental, and spiritual. Man has physical vision, mental or rational vision, and spiritual insight. Actually, the pyramid is a triangle in a square, which equals seven. The number seven represents completion; therefore, the pyramids allude to man's complete development. The history of Islam says that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ascended to the seventh heaven where he received the light (salat). The Masonic Apron is shaped like the pyramid: the lower part is a square, the bib is triangle.

THE EYE

The eye represents insight, vision, intelligence. The eye is at the top of the pyramid because the higher up we go, the further we can see outwards. A man at the foot or bottom of a mountain cannot see as far as a man on top of the mountain. This tells us that once we ascend, our vision will broaden. The Scriptures tells us that Moses went up in the mountain, Jesus went up to the mountain, and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) went up in the mountain; and they saw more up in the mountain than they saw on the ground level. In fact, they brought down with them what they had received from on high.

Albert Pike, in his discussion of the symbolic and metaphysical meaning of the pyramid explains, "The huge

pyramids, with their triangular sides of elevation and square bases, represented their Metaphysics, founded upon the knowledge of Nature. That knowledge of Nature had for its symbolic key the gigantic form of the huge Sphinx, which has hollowed its deep bed in the sand, while keeping watch at the feet of the Pyramids. The Seven grand monuments called the Wonders of the World, were the magnificent commentaries on the Seven lines that composed the Pyramids, and on the Seven mystic gates of Thebes." (Morals and Dogma pg. 32). In Freemasonry the pyramid is symbolized by the triangle.

Imam W. Deen Muhammad expounded upon the significance of the pyramid on the one dollar bill in a lecture entitled "Jain, Jacobs and Metaphysics." He explained:

"When I was in Egypt I saw the pyramid and I began thinking on the symbolic meaning of the pyramid in the religious world... If you have a dollar bill look on it and you'll see a pyramid on it. And in the top of the pyramid you'll see an eye ,and from the eye you see rays. Meaning there is light, symbol of wisdom... When you look at this pyramid you see a three-sided figure. You see a triangle... But at the base it's a square. Now why is this symbol so important in religion? And believe me it is, it wouldn't be on your dollar if it wasn't important. I think it's the Shriners who also have the pyramid . . . When you look at some of their art designs you will most likely see a pyramid. You'll also see fez and crescents. It resembles in some respects the Muslim people...They trace the growth of Christianity or religion, the Bible's teachings, back to Egypt to the pyramid... I haven't belonged to any of their orders so they can't charge me with breaking an oath. I never gave an oath.

"At the base of this pyramid we see it has four corners. That's a square and from the square rises up the angles forming the pyramid. The angles represent human development. The human being's growth. The base represents creation, the fundamental principles in the development or in the creation. What are they? They saw creation as being composed of four fundamental or basic elements. The elements of man: solid, water, air and fire. Man in his nature is characteristic of these elements. He is like a solid in the sense that he has to give himself to the gravity of material things... Then there is water. The man in his moral make-up is like water... Water is heavy, it comes down to the earth, but it responds to the heat of the sun and rises up in the atmosphere. Likewise, moral nature would like to satisfy the appetites of the flesh. But

if the image of God is put over us, it will begin to draw our moral nature up towards the image of God. Just as the sun with its heat draws the water up in the form of a mist and lifts it from the corruption. Likewise for the righteous image of God, it won't lift your corruption up, it won't lift your weak nature up, it won't bring your filth up to God. It will only attract the moral nature in its pure form and lift your moral being up in a pure form towards Almighty God.

"They built the pyramids because they had this knowledge and they built it showing as its base these four elements. And in Egyptology these elements are called the four sons of Horus.....Its not a new language, its a language from Ancient Egypt. Not only that, a study of Ancient Egypt will reveal that circumcision didn't start with the Jews, it started with the Africans of Egypt. The belief in the soul and resurrection didn't start with Israel, it started with Egypt... Look at the pyramid over here now and you see an eye there... What does that mean? It means that man is looking for vision. There is in human nature the desire for vision. We want to see... not only with these physical eyes, we want to see with our soul's eye. So the wise people knew that vision is what we want, we want to see... Our body, our whole being is reaching up for vision. And what do we need for this? We need two corners of the pyramid. We don't need all the four corners. We just need two of those corners.... We need water... we will never get vision without water. Water is the beginning in the movement towards vision. A man grows in knowledge because he has to make choices. His moral nature demands (dictates) that he make choices.... The harder the decision is, the more knowledge we're going to have to have.... We begin realizing that we need to make a moral decision. It is the moral nature that stimulates the growth in the path towards intelligence.... Moral conscience refines your knowledge. It directs your knowledge. It focuses your knowledge. Without that (moral conscience) your knowledge just staggers, becomes confused... "

He explained that the second corner that is needed is the material or physical. " *We don't have to have air to start with. What is fire? Fire is symbolic of wisdom. We don't have to begin with wisdom. Air is symbolic of spirit. We don't have to begin with spirit. If we just have moral conscience, and materials are made available, we can grow towards vision... The moral factor brings about the movement and the physical factor feeds the growth."*

The ancient wisdom is both intriguing and thought provoking. The reader, it is hoped, can now understand why the

pyramid is on the back of the American dollar bill. History, scripture and mythology tell us that Egypt has a dual history: one of great progress and achievement, and another one of slavery and oppression. America, it seems, has in some ways gone the way of Ancient Egypt. It is a matter of fact that America, like the scriptural accounts of Egypt, enslaved and oppressed a whole people for centuries. Egypt had esoteric mystery systems and America has its secret or esoteric mystery systems, or secret societies. In many respects, you can only enter America the way the people entered ancient Egypt. The method for achieving freedom and dignity is the same as the one that was used by Moses and his people.

CHAPTER III

HOW TO ENTER ANCIENT EGYPT AND MODERN EGYPT (AMERICA)

The Scripture gives us a picture of Egypt as being the place where free men desired to go. There were only a few ways to enter Egypt. You either entered as a slave being sold into bondage as Joseph was, or as a baby drawn from the water like Moses. Many people from near and far would physically travel to Egypt for trade and commerce. However, in order to really get into Egypt, it was required that you break or explain the Riddle of the Sphinx.

Entering Egypt didn't first mean going there physically. It meant understanding and receiving some of the wisdom and benefits of that great city. Entering Egypt meant entering some of its mysteries, so that one could advance and progress freely within the system. To enter Egypt you had to know how to knock on the door, how to walk, how to stand. In order to enter Egypt you had to have a correct password.

Modern Masonry requires its members to present a password, to knock a certain way. For example, in the 20th degree of Scottish Rite Masonry the pass-word is "*Jekson* ", the answer is "*Stolkin*" , and the sacred word is "*Razah-belsijah*". To gain entrance three knocks are given, by one and two; nine steps are made, each forming a square. In this degree the Mason stands, forming four squares, first by placing the right hand on the heart with the thumb extended, which makes two squares; then placing the left hand on the lips, the thumb separate, this makes the third square; the fourth square is made by bringing the heels together, feet open on the square. This position or sign is then answered by making five squares: Cross the arms on the chest, the right over the left, this makes two, the fingers extended and close together, the

thumbs are separate forming a square, this makes four; the heels together, feet open, makes five. The two signs together equals nine squares. It is further required that certain questions and answers be given:

QUESTION: "What is the first Masonic triangle?" ANSWER: "Veneration, Devotion and Patriotism." QUESTION: "What is the second great Masonic triangle?" ANSWER: "Gratitude to God, Love of mankind and confidence in human nature." QUESTION: "What is the third Masonic triangle?" ANSWER: "Truth which includes frankness, plain dealing and sincerity; Justice which includes equity and impartiality; and toleration." QUESTION: "In the South, what seek ye to attain in masonry?" ANSWER: "Light, the light of Knowledge, Science and Philosophy." QUESTION: "In the North, what seek ye to attain in masonry?" ANSWER: "Light, the light of liberty, free thought, free speech for all mankind, free conscience, free action, within law, the same for all." QUESTION: "In the West, what seek ye to attain in masonry?" ANSWER: "Light, the great light of God's divine truth, eternal as Himself; and of virtue, immortal as the soul."

After giving the three knocks by one and two, the question is asked, "Who seeks admission?" ANSWER: "A mason, who having attained the nineteenth degree desires to be here qualified to preside over all symbolic lodges that he may still further advance in masonry." QUESTION: "Is it through mere idle curiosity, or for the sake of distinction among his fellows that he makes this request?" ANSWER: "it is not."

In another Masonic catechism we find this: "How blows a mason's wind?" ANSWER: "From the East towards the West, and from the South towards the North, and from the North towards the South, the East and the West." QUESTION: "What weather brings it?" ANSWER: "Variable, hail and storm, and calm and pleasant weather."

These changing winds, it is believed, symbolized the changing progress of man's life in his pursuit of knowledge. In the 3rd degree (Master Mason) the question is asked, "Are you a

Master Mason?" ANSWER: "I am." QUESTION: "What induced you to become a Master Mason?" ANSWER: "In order that I might travel in foreign countries, work and receive Master's wages, being better enabled to support myself and family and contribute to the relief of worthy distressed Master Masons, their widows and orphans."

Returning to Ancient Egypt, we find that there were several ways to enter Egypt. There were several gates or strategies that could be used to gain admission into that great and mighty nation. The Holy Qur'an says that Jacob advised his sons to enter Egypt through different gates or doors. Jacob said, "*O my sons! enter not all by one gate: enter ye by different gates.....*" (12:67). This re-emphasizes the fact that there were different strategies that could be used to enter Egypt. A door or gate is also symbolic of books, experiences, learning, et cetera, because a book is a doorway to knowledge.

The Qur'an is a book that opens the way to knowledge, guidance, peace, etc. The Bible is a book, yet it is a door to knowledge. In order to enter Egypt as a free man it took a certain knowledge. Whichever way you entered Egypt, it required that you have some knowledge, unless you were sold into bondage or blessed by the Creator to grow up and advance by divine providence like Moses. A slave was not really in Egypt, he did not have the same rights and privileges (even if he thought he did). The slave could not interpret the hieroglyphics, the common person could not read the handwriting on the wall like Daniel in Babylon, or like Joseph, who properly interpreted the King's dream.

Imam W. Deen Muhammad explained concerning how to enter Egypt that, "...If you couldn't break the riddle, you couldn't get into the city... you could go physically into the city, but you couldn't make progress in that city.... Ancient Egypt had a riddle and the key for entering that city... entering the city meant becoming a part of the city, a functional part of that city, a progressive unit in that city. That is what is meant by entering the city... The people who were in bondage in Egypt, their main hope was to free Egypt.

Now, they were in Egypt, weren't they. The ones (people) who wanted to come in had to break the riddle. According to the Bible, the Hebrew Children were already in Egypt. So what does that tell us? ANSWER: If they were in bondage they didn't break the riddle. And if they were in bondage, they had not gotten into Egypt." (Dallas Texas CRAID Convention 1982).

Although there were several riddles, one of the most thought provoking ones was the Riddle of Sphinx, which posed the question: "What creature walks first on four legs? Then on two legs, and then on three legs?" The answer was, "man, the human being" because we first start out crawling on fours as a baby; then we get the balance and discipline to walk with two legs; and lastly, as we grow in age and get weak, we use a cane or staff to help support us. The staff or cane is the third leg.

It was the knowledge of this riddle that was the key to entering Egypt. Why? A close examination of this riddle will reveal that it speaks to the very development and mental progression of man. It embodies the science of human nature. Let us examine it closer. What creature walks on four? As we mentioned in an earlier chapter, the four alludes to the fundamental aspects or elements in man, i.e. Earth (material knowledge), Water (moral nature) Fire (wisdom), Air (spiritual understanding). In Egyptology, we find that the four carnal points (North, East, South and West) were very important.

Therefore, the message in the four legs, like a chair, is that man should begin his life on a solid, squared foundation and that his life is influenced from four directions. Then from there he grows up to a point where he has balance in his life, he has disciplined himself to such an extent that he no longer needs to depend totally on the square, but now he can stand upon the level, he walks on two legs, physical and mental knowledge or moral and material. A level is used to prove the horizontal and it is made of material (wood or steel), and water (moral). So to enter Egypt you had to know that God created man to balance himself and that he should have two eyes but one vision, two ears but one sound.

Lastly, the riddle mentions three legs. This represents the physical, mental and spiritual. Man is a triune being, what Percival calls the "Doer, the Knower and Thinker." The three legs represents man's mental development, it alludes to knowledge, wisdom and understanding. The third leg, the staff, represents spiritual understanding as well as one's life experience. When a person gets up in age, he/she depends on their experience to carry them through. Three forms a triangle. In the Masonic lodges the three lesser lights are arranged in a triangle. The three represents youth, manhood, and age. In Masonry it represents the first three degrees, it also represents beauty, strength and wisdom. Masonry says there were three: Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum who killed the Master Builder. The Bible says Jesus rose on the third day. Day in comparison to night represents light which is symbolic of knowledge; therefore, it means he was raised to the third level of understanding.

Three is a sacred number in religion, government, and social science. So actually the riddle of the Sphinx was really pointing to a very high and profound science. It also expressed some of the geometrical figures: the four or square; the two, or the level or the scale; and three, the triangle. The number that appears in the riddle totals to nine. (4 + 2 + 3 = 9). Thus, it is the knowledge of the nine that allows one to enter Ancient Egypt. The Holy Qur'an says that Allah gave Moses nine signs to present to the Pharaohs of Egypt. The Qur'an states, "To Moses we did give nine clear signs: Ask the Children of Israel when he came to them, Pharaoh said to him: O Moses, I consider thee, indeed to have been worked upon by sorcery!" (17:101). The Qur'an goes on to say that Pharaoh had knowledge of the nine signs and knew that they were from the Creator. Moses said, "Thou knowest well that these things have been sent down by none but the Lord of the heavens and the earth as eye-opening evidence; and I consider thee, indeed O Pharaoh, to be one doomed to destruction!" (H.Q. 17:102).

As mentioned in an earlier chapter, the number nine represents the union of the material and spiritual. It alludes to the balanced man. Mackey writes, "If the number three was celebrated among the ancient sages, that of three times three had no less celebrity.....The number nine was consecrated to the Spheres and

Muses. It is the sign of every circumference; because a circle or 360 degrees is equal to nine, that is to say: 3 + 6 + 0 = 9..... In Freemasonry, nine derives its value from its being the product of three multiplied into itself, and consequently in Masonic language the number nine is always denoted by the expression three times three (3 x 3)." (Encyclopedia of Freemasonry pg. 709).

If Mackey is correct, then the thirty third (33rd) degree actually symbolized nine, which according to the Bible was the hour (9th hour) that Jesus *gave up the ghost* and died. Giving up the ghost means that the spiritual was separated from the material which caused him to die; he no longer operated with the knowledge of the nine. Instead of having balance, he was made extremely material, he was placed in a grave. The Bible says a *round stone* was placed in front of the grave, which is to tell us that he was hid behind spiritual logic.

In the 3rd degree of Masonry, the Master Mason learns about nine classes of Emblems: (1) Pot of incense which is an emblem of a pure heart. (2) The Bee-Hive, an emblem of industry. (3) The Book of Constitution guarded by the Tyler's Sword, "Reminds us that we should be ever watchful and guarded in our thoughts, words and actions, particularly when before the uninitiated." (4) The Sword pointing to a naked heart, which "demonstrates that justice will sooner or later overtake us." (5) The All-Seeing Eye. (6) The Anchor and Ark, which "are an emblem of a well grounded hope, and a well spent life." (7) The Forty-Seventh Problem of Euclid. (8) The Hour Glass, an emblem of human life. (9) The Scythe, an emblem of time, which cuts the brittle thread of life and launches us into eternity.

The importance of the number nine in Freemasonry is perhaps most reflected in the Holy Royal Arch degree, which is considered one of the most important degrees in Masonry. In this degree we find that there are nine officers. Wilmhurst explains, "hence it comes about that the three aspects of each of the three sides of our equilateral triangle are ceremonially personified by the nine officers of the Chapter--three in the East representing the spiritual

side, three in the West figuring the soul or physical side, and three subordinate links connecting these other two" (The Meaning of Masonry pg. 148).

In the Royal Arch chapter of Masonry the question is asked: "Are you a Royal Arch Mason?" ANSWER: "I am that I am." QUESTION: "How shall I know you to be a Royal Arch Mason?" ANSWER: "By three times three under a living arch and over a triangle." QUESTION: "How many compose a chapter of Royal Arch Masons?" ANSWER: "Nine or More."

Royal Arch Masonry also tells us that certain men had to travel through nine arches in order to reach the Delta: "I penetrated through nine arches underground, and in the end I found the Delta which God has promised the Holy Patriarchs should be found in fullness of time". For each arch there is a password, nine words in total. They are: Jub, Jeo, Juo, Hayah, Gotha, Adonai, Jaconai, Helencham and Jacbabuli-um.

As I have already mentioned, modern Masonry traces most of its symbols back to Ancient Egypt; therefore, just as the knowledge of the number nine which symbolizes one's growth in material and spiritual knowledge was essential for entering and advancing in Egypt, it is likewise for modern Masonry and the American society.

The Scripture tells us that Moses came into Egypt on the river in a basket as a little baby, and he grew up in the house of Pharaoh. This alludes to Moses' and his people's humble and dependent state. A baby has no control of its destiny; it has to depend on adults. The basket is a symbol of simple material concerns and needs that he had as a baby; and the water alludes to his early moral state, his innate goodness.

Babies have a natural sensitivity for cleanliness. Moses came into Egypt a little differently. Although he did not have to break the riddle directly, in his natural growth he went through the same stages of understanding and eventually received the Ancient wisdom of the Egyptians. More discussion on Moses will follow in a

subsequent chapter. Let us now turn our attention to America (Modern Egypt).

AMERICA (MODERN EGYPT)

America, like Ancient Egypt was, is the most highly advanced civilization in modern times. People travel from near and far to study and learn the arts and sciences of America, to reap the great benefits that America offers. America is envied by many of the nations of the world. Its system of democracy, freedom and economics is marvelled by the eyes of the world.

America, also, has its many secret societies and mystery systems. To name a few: the Elks, the Odd Fellows, the Freemasons and Shriners, the Lions Club, the Order of Ahepa, the Order of Alhambra, the Order of Amaranth, the Order of De Molay, the United Ancient Order of Druids, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Eastern Stars, the Daughters of Isis, the Daughters of the Nile, the Daughters of the Sphinx, Job's Daughters, the Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm, Knights of Columbus, Knights of the Golden Eagle, Knights of Malta, Knights of Pythgoras, Ancient Egyptian Order of Sciotis, White Shrine of Jerusalem, and the Ancient Mystical Order of Rosae Crucis (Rosicrucians). Like Ancient Egypt, America has its major secret fraternity: York Rite and Scottish Rite Masonry and the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

America has its huge, well constructed monuments, although not nearly as well structured as the Great Pyramids. America has its elaborate governmental system and its great education institutions of higher learning. America, too, had slaves that were oppressed and held in bondage. In many, many ways America parallels Ancient Egypt.

As already mentioned, in order to enter Egypt you had to break the riddle of the Sphinx, and that riddle consists of four, two, and three. I am of the opinion that the same riddle must be

understood in order to gain admission into America and to progress in America.

History reveals that the early Europeans who came to America came seeking a better life, and that many of the leaders of the early Colonies were Masons. It is reported that many of them were in prison in England for committing vicious crimes. However, there were many who left England to escape religious oppression, fear, hunger, and imprisonment. America was seen as the new Jerusalem, the divine destiny. The hopes and aspirations of many of the earlier settlers centered around four major concerns:

(1) Freedom of Religion
(2) Freedom of Speech
(3) Freedom from Want (material accomplishment) and
(4) Freedom from Fear

This was the foundation or the bases of American life. Each of these freedoms corresponds to the four basic elements: air, water, earth and fire; which are symbolic of spiritual, material, moral and wisdom, or the four points of entrance.

Freedom of Religion corresponds with the spiritual; **Freedom of Speech** corresponds with the water, because water is used as a means of communicating; **Freedom from Want** means material acquisition and material knowledge, agriculture, etc.; and **Freedom from Fear** alludes to wisdom which is symbolized by fire. When a person is struck by fear, his movements are actually more rapid and impulsive, like fire.

These four freedoms were highlighted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was a 32nd degree Mason and a Noble of the Mystic Shrine. He worked with the square. These freedoms are now called the Four Freedom Awards.*

What creature walks on four, and then on two, and then on three? ANSWER: Man.

History shows that once the four corners, or freedoms were established, the concern was devoted towards two concerns: Church and State. The separation of Church and State, The spiritual and material, the secular and the religious. The separation of Church and State was adopted around 1785. Thomas Jefferson, who also was a Freemason (He belonged to Charlottesville Lodge #90, Virginia) was the strongest advocate of the separation of Church and State. The reader should bear in mind that as Masons, they (Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Roosevelt, etc.) looked to the East for wisdom, understanding and Guidance.

The progression then moved from two (church and state), to three, the governmental structure. The governmental structure was established with three main branches of government introduced. Established around 1787, the three levels of government and their functions were clearly outlined in the Constitution. These levels are called the **Legislative, Executive** and the **Judicial** branches of government. Henry F. Graff in his book America The Glorious Republic writes, "...it (the Constitution) was the product of the best eighteenth-century thinking on the nature of good government. It provided, most important of all, for a separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches in the government. The system is called separation of power. The Constitution also set up a system of checks and balances so that one branch could counter but not paralyze the actions of another." He also pointed out that the United States was referred to as the "American Experiment." (pg. 166,174).

Our country also consists of three levels: Local, State, and Federal government. These levels of government operate in the same way as the Bible says of Adam, Eve and the Serpent. The local is on a lower level than the state, which is under the Federal. The Serpent had to go to Eve in order to get to Adam. The local government must follow the same protocol or chain of command. In most cases the local officials communicate with the Federal via the state.

It should be obvious that the formation and operation of America (Modern Egypt) follows the same pattern as Ancient Egypt.

Therefore, we can conclude that the same key that was used to unlock the Riddle of the Sphinx in order to gain entrance, has to be used to get into America. What is the answer? The knowledge of human nature, to understand how man and society develops and progresses. The human being moves from the four, to the two, and then to three. However, this knowledge has been locked up, and hidden from the masses of people. The progression equals nine (4 + 2 + 3 = 9).

Once we understand that there has to be a balance in our lives, we will advance beyond the borders of America. The key to making real progress in America, especially for the African-American people who are physically in America but are yet out of the true competition, is to come into an awareness that our life must be balanced; and that we need a life context that is rooted in material knowledge and spiritual understanding. The Masonic Compass and Square is a symbol of the union of the material and spiritual. The highest court in the land consists of nine judges.

The Holy Qur'an says, "*Strive with all that ALLAH has given you for the after-life, the hereafter, but don't forget your share of this material life.*" (H. Q. 28:77).

According to the great history of Prophet Muhammad (PHUH), he ascended to the seventh heaven and he met eight men, and he (Muhammad) was the ninth one. Some reports say he led the other eight in prayer. Muhammad was the ninth man in the Seventh heaven. History shows us that under his leadership the material and the spiritual was reunited. ALLAH revealed through Prophet Muhammad that the heavens and the earth should come together.

Prophet Muhammad established a balanced community. During Al-Isra, Miraj, he ascended to the heavens and received the light (prayer) and brought it back down to the earth. This vision speaks to the importance of having heavenly or spiritual concerns as well as earthly or material concerns. The Muslim prayers consist of a number of body movements called *rakahs*. If we reflect on the Fard (obligatory) prayers, we will notice that the numbers that occur equal nine. Those numbers are: 2, 4 and 3.

A Muslim is required to make at least five prayers a day. The first prayer (Fajr) consists of 2 rakahs; the second one (Thur) consists of 4 rakahs; the third one (Asr), 4 rakahs; the fourth prayer (Maghrib), 3 rakahs; and the fifth prayer (Isha), 4 rakahs. Of these five prayers, only three independent numbers occur, and they equal nine. Muslims understand that their prayer offers both material and spiritual benefits and it is a physical and spiritual discipline. Furthermore, the Holy Qur'an was revealed from on high, to a physical human being in the ninth month, called Ramadan.

Unlike the Riddle of the Sphinx which gives the answer for entering Egypt, ALLAH shows us the stages of growth and development required in order to enter the paradise that He offers. The knowledge of this world can make one proud and arrogant like Pharaoh, who thought he was God. The Bible and Qur'an indicate that Pharaoh was so fascinated and intrigued with the great knowledge that he had achieved, and the great accomplishments that Egypt had made, until he felt that no one, not even the Creator of the heavens and the earth, could outwit him or destroy what they had built. That same ignorant mentality exists in the world today; mighty nations think they have complete control over the destiny of man.

ALLAH reveals in the Holy Qur'an that Abraham met such a person: "*Hast thou not turned thy vision to one who disputed with Abraham about his Lord, because ALLAH had granted him power? Abraham said: "My Lord is he who giveth life and death." He (The proud man) said: "I give life and death." Said Abraham: "But it is ALLAH that causeth the sun to rise from the East: Do thou then cause him to rise from the west."* Thus was the proud man confounded, who (in arrogance) rejected faith. Nor doth ALLAH give guidance to a people unjust.

CHAPTER IV

MOSES AND EGYPT

According to the Bible and Qur'an, Moses came into Egypt as a baby floating in the water. His life in Egypt began in the water. The Bible says, "*And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river side: And when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it and when she had opened it, she saw the child: and behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews children... And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, because I drew him out of the water.* (Exodus, Chapter 1:5, 6, 10).

The Holy Qur'an states, "*Behold! We sent to thy mother, by inspiration, the message: "Throw (the child) into the chest, and throw (the chest) into the river: The river will cast him up on the bank, and he will be taken up by one who is an enemy to me and an enemy to him. But I cast (the garment of) love over thee from me: and (this) in order that thou mayest be reared under Mine eye*" (20:38, 39).

Moses being drawn from the water suggests that he got into the mainstream of the Egyptian society at a very young age. In fact the Scriptures tell us that he was taken right into the house of Pharaoh as a young child. Moses got into the vital lifeline of the society. The vital organs of any city are its water and food supply, as well as its roads and sewage.

According to the reports, Moses learned the ways of the Egyptians not from the common, every-day worker, but from the wise, the masters of the sciences. He learned from the King him-

self. Moses became a great builder and a student of the sciences of Egypt. He learned geometry, physics, alchemy. He learned the various signs and symbols of Egypt, and the various spiritual and human sciences that Egypt had to offer. The Scriptures report that while Moses had become a part of Egypt, his people were being held in bondage by the same people he was associating with.

History tells us that Moses had to flee Egypt because he killed an Egyptian, The Master Builder, in Pharaoh's kingdom. Although Moses was a great Prophet of ALLAH who lived approximately four thousand years ago, in the study of symbolism, he represents more than just a physical being and he also represents the "Law". The reader should also bear in mind that often times the people are classified under the name of the prophets or person who was outstanding in their history. For example, America is named after Americus Vespuccius, an Italian explorer who sailed with Columbus. Saudi Arabia is named after the Saud family of Arabia, etc. Therefore, the names represent more than just the person himself.

According to the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary "The birth of Moses represents man's development in consciousness of the law of his being.... out of seemingly negative conditions comes the new growth... Moses symbolizes this progressive or drawing out process, which works from within-outwards; as applied to the universe, the upward trend of all things--the evolutionary law." (pg. 460, 461).

Symbolically speaking Moses did not slay the Master Builder of Egypt. It was someone from among his people who slew the Master Builder. Both the Bible and Qur'an say Moses was cleared of the crime. Understand, symbolically speaking Moses did not kill the Master Builder. However, according to the clear message of the Qur'an, the last and complete revelation from ALLAH, Moses did kill a man in Egypt: ".... *and Moses struck him with his fist and made an end of him...*" (28:15).

The Scripture further tells us that when Moses fled Egypt he received his calling from God through a "*Burning Bush* ". In the

Bible it reads, "*And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire and the bush was not consumed.... And Moses said, I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said Moses, Moses! And he said, here am I. And he said, draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*" (Exodus 3:2-5).

The Holy Qur'an explains, "*Has the story of Moses reached thee? Behold, he saw a fire: So he said to his family. "Tarry ye; I perceive a fire; perhaps I can bring you some burning brand therefrom or find some guidance at the fire. But when he came to the fire, a voice was heard: "O Moses! Verily I am thy Lord therefore (in My Presence) put off thy shoes: thou art in the sacred valley Tuwa. I have chosen thee: Listen, then to the inspiration (sent to thee) . Verily, I am ALLAH: There is no god but I. So serve thou Me (only), and establish regular prayer for celebrating my praise.*" (H.Q. 20:9-14).

Muslims are required to take off their shoes when they enter the prayer area (musalla) of the Masjid (Mosque). Freemasons, in imitation of this event in the life of Moses (as well as other aspects), have established what it calls Royal Arch Masonry. In this particular chapter the Mason re-enacts many of the aspects of Moses' life. The Masonic Ritual tells us that the candidate's slippers are removed and a picture of the burning bush is displayed, and he is told "My brethren, the symbol of the Burning Bush in exhibited to you at this time to impress upon your minds in the most solemn manner that the words and signs following were a divine institution, and as such were sacredly regarded by the children of Israel, and by them transmitted to their posterity, as a means by which they might be known and distinguished forever after." (Ronayne's Handbook of Freemasonry pg. 222 - 223).

The Scripture tells us that Moses saw the fire and he went towards the light. What made Moses go towards the fire? It was his nature and his quest for knowledge and understanding. Moses

had already been taught the significance of fire and its symbolic meaning by the wise Masters of Egypt. Albert Pike and many others claim that Moses was initiated into the Egyptian Mystery Systems, and that it was the learning he received there that caused him to realize the value of fire (wisdom). Water is drawn towards fire because of its heat; Moses was drawn to the fire just as water is drawn up by the sun. This speaks to the human being's natural attraction towards truth and righteousness, towards knowledge and wisdom.

CAST DOWN THY ROD

The Scripture informs us that Moses did receive some knowledge when he reached the burning bush. In fact, that event changed his whole life. Moses walked with a cane or staff that he had received from Egypt. The cane or rod is symbolic of the knowledge that he had learned in Egypt. He used that cane to lean on, and also to clear his pathway. The rod served a purpose, just as worldly knowledge serves a purpose for man. However, the knowledge (light) of this world can be like darkness before God. It is not the knowledgeable person that is favored by God, but the sincere and faithful one. The Creator will bless the faithful one with knowledge.

The Scriptures say God told Moses to throw down the knowledge (Staff or rod) that he had received from Egypt. When he threw it down it turned into a snake; Moses was surprised and he jumped back a few paces. Apparently Moses did not know the real nature of the knowledge (staff) that he was using. God showed him what Pharaoh was using. According to the story, the Creator did not tell Moses to throw the staff (Knowledge) completely away. In fact, the Bible and Qur'an gives the idea that God refined and purified the knowledge (staff) then told Moses to pick it up and use it. In other words, it was made right. Casting it on sacred grounds, cleaned it. The great message here is that the knowledge that we receive from the world should be tested, checked, and purified by the sacred knowledge of God; and that we should not throw away the baby with the wash water.

The Bible states, "*And what is that in thy hand? And he said, a rod. And he said, cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent: and Moses fled from before it. And the Lord said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand.*" (Exodus 4:2-4).

The Holy Qur'an explains: "*And what is that in thy right hand, O Moses?" He said, "it is my rod: on it I lean; with it I beat down fodder for my flocks; and in it I find other uses.*" (20:17,18)

"*...O Moses! Verily I am ALLAH, the Lord of the worlds... "Now do thou throw the rod!" But when he saw it moving (of its own accord) as if it had been a snake, he turned back in retreat, and retraced not his steps: "O Moses" (It was said), Draw near, and fear not; for thou art of those who are secure.* " (H.Q. 28:30, 31).

The Bible and Qur'an say the Creator prepared Moses for his battle with Pharaoh by giving him several signs. He was instructed to: "Put thine hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous (white) as snow. And he said put thine hand into thy bosom again and he put his hand into his bosom again, and pulled it out of his bosom and behold, it was turned again as his other flesh."

The Holy Qur'an states, "*Move thy hand into thy bosom and it will come forth white without stain (or harm), and draw thy hand close to thy side (to guard) against fear. Those are the two credentials from thy Lord to Pharaoh and his chiefs for truly they are people rebellious and wicked.*" (28:32).

The Bible mentions another sign that was given to Moses "...take of the water of the river and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land" (Exodus 4:9). The Bible says God said to Moses "I am That I am." In the Royal Arch chapter of Masonry these signs are relayed to the Mason and adopted as their signs of recognition and communication. Each sign is accompanied by three words.

The password for a Royal Arch Mason is, "I am that I am." Observe the dialogue: "By what further right or benefit do you expect to gain admission?" ANSWER: "By the will of him who has sent us." QUESTION: "Who hath sent you?" ANSWER: "The God of your fathers." QUESTION: "What is his name?" ANSWER: "I am that I am. I am hath sent us unto you" QUESTION: "Who dares approach this 2nd vail of our sacred Tabernacle? Who comes here?" ANSWER: "Three weary sojourners, who have come up to help, aid and assist in rebuilding the House of the Lord, without the hope of fee or reward." QUESTION: "By what particular right or benefit do you expect to gain admission?" ANSWER: "By the words, signs and words of explanation of the Master of the First Vail." QUESTION: "What are his words?" ANSWER: "Shem, Ham and Japhet." QUESTION: "What is his sign?"

FIRST SIGN: Here he throws the rod or staff on the floor, and shrinks back with a slight motion of fear.

SECOND SIGN: The next sign is given by placing the right hand near the heart, then removing it. The accompanying words are, Moses Ahaliab and Bazaleel.

THIRD SIGN: Inside the lodge the sign is given by pouring water from a glass or cup on the floor. Outside, it is usually made by holding the right hand as if holding a glass pouring water to the ground. The words are Joshua, Zeubbabel and Haggai.

The Holy Qur'an says ALLAH gave Moses nine clear signs to present to Pharaoh: (1) the rod, (2) the hand changing color, (3) the drought or shortage of water, (4) shortage of crops, (5) epidemics among the people, (6) locusts, (7) lice, (8) frogs, (9) the water turning to blood.

In Royal Arch Masonry there are actually nine signs. They are: (1) the removing of the shoes, (2) the signet or ring, (3) drawing the right hand across the forehead, (4) placing both the hands together over the eyes as if blocking the rays of the sun,

(5,6,7) the three signs of Moses, (8) the sign of admiration, (9) sign adoration.

THE GREAT DEBATE

It is reported that God assigned Aaron as a helper to Moses because Moses felt that he could not express himself clearly. Before Moses went to Pharaoh, the Qur'an says, he and Aaron felt a sense of fear. *"They (Moses and Aaron) said: "Our Lord! We fear lest He hasten with insolence against us or lest he transgress all bounds."* In response ALLAH not only told them not to fear Pharaoh and his hosts, but He instructed them on how to speak to Pharaoh. ALLAH said, "*Fear not for I am with you: I hear and see (everything)... But speak to him mildly, perchance he may take warning or fear ALLAH*" (H.Q. 20:44-46).

Let us understand that Moses was going to debate with the ruler of the greatest nation of that time. He along with Aaron was assigned to debate with the wisest people around. Moses had no army, he had no weapons. Pharaoh had an army, educational institutions, highly skilled and astute doctors of law; mathematicians, philosophers. Moses had to go up against a man who thought he was God. Moses had to confront the very people who built the great pyramids of Gizah, Masters of the physical and human sciences. Moses knew how Pharaoh and his people were; he was raised in Egypt, in the house of Pharaoh. Reflect! Think! Can you imagine what Moses must have felt? Imam W. Deen Muhammad stated in Dallas, Texas (1982)

"....They (Egyptians) had one of the most elaborate religious orders that history has recorded. We are not talking about savage man. We are not talking about barbaric man. We are talking about an ancient kingdom that knew science, knew medicine, knew chemistry, knew physics. We are talking about the ancient kingdom that made the first dust pan, that made the first broom, that made the first modern furniture. Some of the modern furniture today does not look any more modern than the furniture that they have in the museum of Cairo, Egypt, (furniture) that those people made three and four thousand years ago.... So we are not

talking about a shabby society, a shabby nation. We are talking about an advanced, well established nation; a nation that boasted in its material accomplishments, in its industry. A nation that boasted in its sciences, a nation from which we trace our own science which we call psychology."

According to the story, Moses went to Pharaoh and delivered the message. Pharaoh in turn became very arrogant and said, "*Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I knew not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go.*" (Exodus 5: 2).

It is reported that Pharaoh made his slaves make bricks from straw and mud, which means that they had to develop or arrive at solid, biological, concrete truth, from hollow, unbalanced and unstabled concepts. The Qur'an says that Pharaoh became so arrogant and conceited until he told his builders to erect him a tower because he wanted to go up into the heaven and find the mystery God. "*And Pharaoh said: O Chiefs! I know not that ye have a God other than me, so kindle for me (a fire) O Haman, to bake the mud; and set up for me a lofty tower in order that I may survey the God of Moses; and Lo! I deem him of the liars* " (28:38). Pharaoh thought he was God in the flesh. He thought he was the owner, the maker, the cream of the planet earth, God of the universe. Pharaoh said to Moses, "*...I consider thee, indeed to have been worked upon by sorcery!" "Then he (Pharaoh) collected his men and made a proclamation, saying "I am your Lord, Most High .*" (H.Q.79: 23,24).

After Moses showed Pharaoh some of the knowledge he had received from God, Pharaoh claimed that Moses was well versed in magic and he said, "*If indeed thou hast come with a sign, show it forth--if thou tellest the truth." Then (Moses) threw his rod, and behold! it was serpent plain (for all to see)! And he drew out his hand, and behold! It was white to all beholders! Said the Chiefs of the people of Pharaoh: "This is indeed a sorcerer well-versed.*" (H.Q. 7:106-109).

It is further reported that Pharaoh sought advise and consultation (that is a sign of a wise man, not a fool). He said, "*His (Moses') plan is to get you out of your land: then what is it ye*

counsel?" They said: "Keep him and his brother in suspense (for a while); and send to the cities men to collect--and bring up to thee all (our) sorcerers well-versed." (H.Q. 7:110-112).

The story goes on to say that Moses and Aaron met in the court of Pharaoh's Kingdom. It is reported that Pharaoh had promised his Magicians, socerers, philosophers, wizards, etc. a better and closer place to him in the kingdom if they defeated him. In other words, instead of being in the fields they would be allowed in the house. Before the debate began the question was asked, "who shall go first?" Moses said: "ye be the first to go." So when Pharaoh's men threw their rods down, they began to move like serpents, too. When Aaron threw Moses' rod down it consumed Pharaoh's men's rods. The point here is that there was a strategy used by Moses: he allowed them to show off their knowledge first, and then he showed that the knowledge that he got from the Creator was superior. It has often been asked, "what was the debate concerning, knowledge of what?" An analysis of this event will reveal that they threw the rods down on the earth, which implies that it had to do with the material sciences, or the human sciences, as opposed to the spiritual sciences. A serpent moves on the earth. The Bible tells us that later he raised the rod to the sky or heaven; but in this particular event they cast it on the earth.

The Bible relays the event in these words: "*And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the lord had commanded: And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants,and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the wise men, and the sorcerers: now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For thy cast down every man his rod, and they become serpents,: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.*" (Exodus 7: 10-12).

The Holy Qur'an explains: "*So the sorcerers were got together for the appointment of a day well-known, and the people were told: "Are ye (now) assembled? - That we may follow the sorcerers (in religion) if they win?" So when the sorcerers arrived, they said to Pharaoh: "Of course - shall we have a (suitable) reward*

if we win? He said: "Yea, (and more), --for ye shall in that case be (raised to posts) nearest (to my person)." Moses said to them: "Throw ye - that which ye are about the throw!" So they threw their ropes and their rods, and said: "By the might of Pharaoh, it is we who will certainly win!" Then Moses threw his rod, when, behold it straightway swallows up all the falsehoods which they fake! Then did the sorcerers fall down prostrate in adoration, saying: "We believe in the Lord of the Worlds. The Lord of Moses and Aaron." (26:38-48).

According to the Scriptures Moses and his people eventually left Egypt and wandered in the wilderness in search of the promised land. Pharaoh and his army with chariots and horses had pursued them up to the Red Sea, where Moses raised his rod to the heaven and then pointed down to the water causing it to part for Moses and his people.

SYMBOLIC MEANING OF PARTING OF THE RED SEA

The Scripture says Pharaoh's army drowned in the red sea. Symbolically the chariot represents a principle or method of controlling human drives and behavior (horses). The horses represent human drives, human motivations and human behavior that are blind. Blinders are put over horses' eyes. Pharaoh was pursuing Moses and his people with human science, he was trying to control their behavior, their human drives and aspirations. Moses' *raising the rod to heaven* and *stretching his hand over the red sea,* refers to the great blessing that he received from on high. Raising the rod means that he was using the higher knowledge that he received from ALLAH (God) near the burning bush. Stretching out his hand over the red sea means he passed that knowledge on, he didn't keep it secret. He appealed to the people with higher knowledge of God.

According to Scripture Pharaoh had a small concept of the Creator. He thought he was God. Moses appealed to the red sea. Red symbolizes anger, activity and life. Blood is red and it is the

life of the body. The sea or water alludes to morality and communication. Therefore, red sea symbolizes active, expressive moral life. Moses communicated to these morally active people and they allowed Moses and his people to walk across on dry ground, solid foundation. It is further reported that Pharaoh's army, because they did not have the higher knowledge, were drawn or overtaken by the people. Pharaoh's concept of God and human behavior could not be universally applied. It was too narrow. It was good for Egypt and some surrounding cities, but it was not accepted universally. It was part truth, not whole truth. Modern man should take a lesson from this great event. As long as the leaders of this world try to appeal to the world of man with narrow, extreme nationalist ideas they stand to be toppled. The universal appeal, respect for the Creator, high principles, and human worth can be accepted by all men.

THE WILDERNESS

The Scriptures say that Moses and his people wandered in the wilderness for forty years. During this time the Jews became very impatient and continued to complain about everything. They became so unruly and violent until Moses feared for his life. "And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me." (EXODUS 17:4).

During their sojourn in the wilderness, there was a very important battle between Moses' people and Amalek. It is reported that Moses sent Joshua out to fight Amalek and his people. The Bible says Moses, Aaron and Hur, three men, went up to the top of a hill. What happened up there? The Bible says "*And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Isreal prevailed and when he let down his hand Amalek prevails.*" (Exodus 17:11).

Why would Moses want Amalek to ever prevail? He was Israel's enemy. This is symbolic. It has to be, if not, it means that Moses consciously worked for his enemies. This represents Moses'

knowledge of the spiritual and material, it alludes to a process of manipulation. It alludes to the method of advances, human progress, and stopping human progress. Moses was a righteous servant and Prophet of Allah (God). Moses symbolically speaks to the knowledge that his people would come into. That knowledge is represented by the so-called Jewish star, or star of David, the six pointed star or interlude triangles (which are really two pyramids, one pointing up and the other pointing down.) This goes on to say that when Moses' army got tired, Aaron got on one side and Hur got on the other, and they held his army up. The Bible also says that when Jesus was crucified that there were men on his side.

Actually Moses formed a cross (the ankh) which was a symbol from Egypt. The story said Joshua overcame Amalek. The position and movements made by Moses have been adopted as one of the signs of a Fellow-Craft Mason (2nd degree). In the Masonic Bible the question is asked: "Who was Moses, and how does his name appear in Masonry?" ANSWER: "Moses was the God-called and divinely qualified leader of Isreal from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Divinely inspired Law-giver of Isreal. He is referred to in some of the higher degrees of Freemasonry, especially in the 25th degree, or Knight of the Brazen Serpents, in the Scottish Rite, where he is represented as the presiding officer. Also in the Royal Arch of the York Rites, whose ritual is framed on the Mosaic symbolism." (p. 51)

In the 25th degree the sacred word is M O S E S. The brother of this degree makes nine serpent-like steps. The sign of order is given by inclining the head downwards, then pointing to the ground with the forefinger of the right hand. The sign of recognition: form a cross upon the chest with your hand.

MOSES RAISES THE SERPENT

The Bible relates a situation where Moses had to raise up a serpent in order to heal his people. It states, "*And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole and it came to pass that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*" (Numbers 21:9).

This event carries with it deep symbolic and allegorical meaning. In the 25th degree of Masonry we find an image of a brass serpent intwined round a cross. It is said that it is a "symbol of faith, repentance, and mercy, which are the great mysteries of man's destiny...." The serpent was a sacred symbol in Egypt. It was a symbol of intelligence and wisdom. It was a symbol of Pharaoh's power.

According to the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, "lift up the serpent" means raising man from a low state to a higher state. "The oriental symbol of eternal life is the serpent with tail in mouth. When this elemental form is "lifted up", or spiritualized, it adds glory and radiance to the whole man. The brazen serpent that Moses caused to be put up where all could see it and so healed, represents this elevation of the sense man to a higher consciousness..... Taken up serpents represents lifting up sense consciousness without being hurt by its reaction." (pg. 584)

Moses was giving his people a message through symbols, therefore, he showed them two symbols. He showed them a serpent crucified on a cross. Moses was applying psychology, he was trying to solicit the same response from them that Pharaoh got. He was also reminding them of where they had come from. We must bear in mind that Moses came out of Egypt; the place that had evolved psychology to a very high state. It is interesting to also note that in the Bible, the serpent is pictured as an evil creature who was responsible for the fall of man (Genesis); but in the Book of Numbers the serpent is a good creature.

Let us now analyze certain aspects of the story of Moses in relation to a real situation that has occurred in the life of America and the African-American people. Although this story and many others are thought-provoking, intellectually stimulating, and interesting, their value is heightened once they can be applied to our current life.

Recent history tells us that the African-American people were brought to the shores of America around 1663 by way of the Atlantic Ocean. The African-American people, like Moses and his people, were drawn from the water and taken into bondage in a strange land among strange people. We were stripped of our language, our religion, our name, our entire culture was taken away and we were to work and serve the Caucasian slave master. Some of the slaves were allowed to stay in the Master's house, but most of them stayed in the fields.

PROMINENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN MASONS

The Bible says Moses grew up and learned the ways of the Egyptians. The African-Americans grew up in America and learned the ways of the Caucasian slave master. Some reports say that Moses and some of his people were educated in the Egyptian Mystery Systems and were taught some of the secret sacred sciences. Today, many African-Americans have become a part of the Secret Orders that exist in America. For example, we find that Prince Hall, a freedom fighter and abolitionist, along with 14 other African-Americans, was initiated into the Freemasonic order in Boston in 1775, after which he formed African Lodge number 459. Today we find many distinguished and intelligent African-American leaders holding membership in the Masonic Order. To mention a few: Jesse Jackson, Democratic Candidate for President of the United States; Andrew Young, Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia; Kenneth Gibson, former three-term Mayor for the City of Newark, New Jersey; the late Harold Washington, former Mayor of Chicago, Illinois; State Senator Julian Bond; Supreme Court JusticeThurgood Marshall; and Marion Barry, Mayor of the District of Columbia.

DESTRUCTION OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHILD

The Bible says Pharaoh ordered his people to kill the first-born from among the Hebrews. History reveals that the first generation of babies born into American slavery were taught and reared as animals. They were mentally killed to the knowledge of their history, their culture and identity. The basic unit of any civilization is the family. The Caucasian slave master purposely destroyed the African-American family. According to some reports, the white slave master would rape a black women right in the face of the black man. The Caucasian slave master mated their African slaves like cattle. The African-American was denied the opportunity to read and develop his mind. Richard Williams, in his book They Stole It, But You Must Return It, writes: "White America tried to destroy the black child by destroying his childhood. After living nine months in the belly of a mother who was experiencing great stress and frustration daily, the black child was born into a system controlled by those who did not consider him a human being .... Black children suffered a high evidence of infant death. Some babies were beaten to death by the slave owner's wife because she suspected that her white husband was the father of the child." (pg. 25-26).

David Walker in his appeal to America stated, almost two hundred years ago, "But in his hands holds us and our children in the most abject slavery and wretchedness. Now I ask them, would they like for us to hold them and their children in abject slavery and wretchedness?... He may see a husband take his dear wife, not infrequently, in a pregnant state, and perhaps far advanced, and beat her for an unmerciful wretch, until his infant falls a lifeless lump at her feet!... But to prove farther that the condition of Israelites was better under the Egyptians than ours is under the whites, I call upon the professing Christian, I call upon the philanthropic, I call upon the very tyrant himself, to show me a page of history, either sacred or profane on which a verse can be found which maintains that the Egyptians heaped the insupportable insult

upon the children of Israel, by telling them that they were not of the human family...." (David Walker's Appeal pg. 10).

The Scripture says that while he was in Egypt Moses killed one of Pharaoh's men. During slavery there were several revolts led by courageous African-American men and women. History tells us that a brave and fearless man named Nat Turner, with a band of other freedom fighters, rose up and physically killed some of the white slave masters. Nat Turner, like Moses, had learned some of the knowledge of the slave masters. It is reported that Nat Turner was taught how to read by one of his owner's sons. Henry F. Graff explains: "He (Nat Turner) came to believe that he had a divine mission to deliver black people from bondage. Turner was able to gather together a band of slaves and organize a revolt.... Before the end of the rebellion, about 160 people of both races had been killed. Nat Turner's Rebellion had a profound effect throughout the South" (America The Glorious Republic pg. 310).

In comparing the plight of the African-Americans with the story of Moses, we also find that first as Pharaoh increased his cruelty upon the Hebrews after Moses came to him seeking their freedom, so did the Southern slave masters increase their cruelty upon the African-Americans after Nat Turner's revolt. The Southerners developed "slave codes" which were designed to further restrict the conduct and activities of the slave" Under these codes violators of the law were put to death "punishment was swift and cruel." As a result of these codes African-Americans could no longer serve as ministers because it was feared that the ministers might preach passages from the Bible that, for example, described the Israelites flight from slavery in Egypt. One of the provisions of the codes was that slaves could only attend their slave master's churches and hear sermons based on the theme of obedience. Other parts of the codes forbid slaves from even gathering in a small group without the presence of a white man.

THE MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL EXODUS

According to the Scripture, after Pharaoh and Egypt received several signs and strict pressure, the Hebrews were set free. It is said that they wandered in the wilderness for forty years. America, like Ancient Egypt, after strict pressure and a desire to build up the North, freed the African-American people. And for more than three hundred years we have wandered in the wilderness, seeking the promised land of human dignity and justice.

The story of the Hebrews in bondage serves as a solution, a method for gaining freedom and dignity. The exodus from Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt is not necessarily a physical migration from the border of the country. The African-American has put too much time, energy, sweat and blood into making America great, to just walk away and leave it for Caucasians. The real exodus is the movement of the mind outside of the borders of American life and the American way of thinking. African-Americans must have the courage to think bigger than America. That is the real exodus, having the ability and desire to run your life without the support of the Caucasian. The Scripture alludes to a mental and spiritual exodus,. more so than a physical one. The proof of this is that no Egyptologist, researcher or archaeologist have been able to find any concrete evidence to support the contention that Egypt held Jews in physical bondage.

LEADERSHIP

ALLAH (God) is All-Wise and Almighty and He has given man solutions for his problems in the sacred Scripture. An examination of the story of Moses also reveals the great importance of leadership. Moses was a leader. Moses was concerned about the well being of his people. Moses had respect for authority. Moses studied and learned. African- Americans must also have respect for sound leadership. The African-American people have had some great leaders. To name a few: Nat Turner, Prince Hall, Harriet

Tubman, Frederick Douglas, Booker T. Washington, Marcus Garvey, Noble Drew Ali, Elijah Muhammad, Al-Hajj Malik Shabazz, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many, many more.

African-Americans need sound, honest, intelligent leadership in every phase of life. The leaders must show genuine concern for the total well-being of the people. He must have courage and wisdom. Moses had the courage to talk straight to Pharaoh like a man, and he also had the strength and conviction to tell his own people when they were wrong. The African-Americans do not need weak-knee, tap dancing, singing leaders that only know how to talk about the white man all day long and appeal to the suffering of the African-American people. We need leaders who will educate the people. We need leaders with principles, who are not afraid to stand up for the Muslim rights in America, the Jewish rights in America, the Christian rights.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Scriptures say Moses went up into the mountains for forty days. This means that he received knowledge that would be a foundation for his society and people. The Scripture also says that the Hebrews learned great knowledge and wisdom, so much so until they were able to develop leadership/ responsibility within themselves.

The Qur'an says every man is responsible for his own action and that one day we will be questioned concerning our actions. Leadership must emphasize responsible behavior on the part of every adult male and female. The Holy Qur'an states, "*Every soul draws the meed of its acts on none but itself: no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another...*" (6:164). H.W. Percival highlights this point in his excellent book Democracy Is Self-Government: "The difference between other forms of government and a real democracy is that the rulers in other governments rule the people and

are themselves ruled by external self-interest or brute force; whereas, to have a real democracy, the voters who elect representatives from among themselves to govern must themselves be self-governed by the conscious power of rightness and reason from within.... The people have wanted rights and advantages without responsibilities." (pg. 24).

Imam W. Deen Muhammad, in addressing the Muslims at the 4th Annual Seerah Conference, stated: "You have to have the courage to accept the responsibility of Muslims and to accept the responsibility of Muslim life. No matter how poor you are and no matter how few you are, you are to accept that responsibility. As black people, belonging to the poor section of the black people or African-Americans, I insist that we still accept the full responsibility of a Muslim people and of a Muslim community.... If you want to be bigger and more able to manage things and to manage affairs and responsibilities, then accept fully the responsibility of a Muslim man and Muslim woman and accept fully that responsibility of a Muslim community....."

WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS

Because the African-Americans were put in a situation where they were totally dependent on another people, there is a tendency in many of us not to do anything for ourselves. When hard times come, many of us are quick to abandon the ship of ethnic pride and self reliance, human dignity and strength. We prefer to pick up ideas of western slavery in the form of mental weakness, laziness and irresponsibility; and like the people of Moses, worship them (Caucasians) as a God. The Bible says the Jews wandered in the wilderness. It also says they became so important that they melted the gold and brass that they had taken out of Egypt, and made a golden calf for worship.

Wandering in the wilderness means searching the vast fields of ideas and philosophies for a comfortable and secure life context. It means **seeking out a philosophy for life**. There is a vast

Wandering in the wilderness means searching the vast fields of ideas and philosophies for a comfortable and secure life context. It means **seeking out a philosophy for life**. There is a vast wilderness of ideas in the world that one could choose for his life. Some are good but most are bad. The world is filled with all kinds of "isms". Therefore, it is easier to sit down and do nothing but resort back to the old ideas of slavery and dependency.

The material that was used to erect the golden calf represents a certain kind of knowledge or idea. Yes brother, it is easy to stop the struggle and give up, but it is more dignified and rewarding to take the road that leads to freedom (mental freedom) and human dignity. ALLAH says in the Qur'an that there are two roads, one difficult and one easy. "*Have we not made for him a pair of eyes? and a tongue and a pair of lips? - And shown him the two highways. But he has made no haste on the path that is steep. And what will explain to thee the path that is steep? - It is freeing the bondman; or the giving of food in a day of privation to the orphan with claims of relationship or the indigent down in the dust.*" (90:8-16). The Qur'an also says, "*Verily, with every difficulty there is relief. Therefore, when- thou art free (from thine immediate task) still labor hard.....* (94:6-8).

If we accept the challenge of the Wilderness and if God blesses, us we will be the new frontier to build a distinguished community founded on belief in the Creator, knowledge, love and respect. We should trust in the Creator. The African- American experience in America not only parallels that of Moses and his people, but it closely resembles that of every scriptural story of people in bondage.

CHAPTER V

COSMIC IDENTITY

Before discussing the story of Joseph, let us consider the fact that the African-American must make an exodus outside of the limited definition of himself that was given to him by the ruling Caucasian people. We must even grow above some of the definitions and labels that we have adopted in our search for identity, because they are only stages in our long journey towards the ultimate dignity and human excellence.

The ancient wise say that man is an expression of the entire universe. They believed "As above so below." Our sojourn on earth is a result, some believe, of "the fall of man." This implies then that man was made in a higher plane of existence and then placed in the earth. This tells us then, that we were citizens of the entire cosmic universe before we were citizens of America, Africa, or any other country. Our identity, our worth, is bigger than America. The Bible and the Qur'an tell us of the great light, the guidance and wisdom. The Creator shows us the connection between our material life, and our spiritual and cosmic life, in the Bible when He created man. The Bible says God first placed a light in the heavens. And that the earth was void and without form. The Holy Qur'an is more direct; it states that ALLAH (God) said, "... Get ye down all (ye people), with enmity between yourselves; on

earth will be your dwelling place and your means of livelihood for a time." (2 :36).

The earth, the sun, the stars are all a part of one universe and they all have a relationship. The human being is created from the same matter and, therefore, we have a relationship with every material and spiritual entity in the entire universe. The Holy Qur'an says that the revelation descended, came down, to the Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet Muhammad received the first *five* ayats (verses) in a cave named Hira (now called the Mountain of Light). The human being has *five* senses. It is reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad had to ascend to the seventh heaven to receive the *five* daily prayers. The religion of Al-Islam is based on *five* pillars or principles.

Man's identity with the entire universe has been kept secret. We have been given a narrow view of ourselves. We have been given an extremely limited and low picture of ourselves. J. D. Buck writes, "The Secret Doctrine teaches that man, like the earth, existed potentially in the fire-mist, and that he has evolved downward into matter, pair passes, with the earth he inhabits, and of which he is an integral part. Each human being, therefore, is a miniature earth (Microcosm) evolving within the greater earth (Macrocosm). This is one of the meanings of Ezekiel's "Wheels within Wheels." In a metaphysical sense, every so-called atom is composed in the same way, and is going through a similar process. It may thus be seen that the key to the whole process of evolution is analogy." (pg. 42)

This kind of universal view of ourselves will motivate us to go beyond the borders of any nation, it will give us the courage to try bigger things because we know that the Creator has given us the right to pursue the boundaries of the heavens and the earth. It is obvious that the Caucasian leadership has this view of himself and the universe. He has not only gone outside of the border of America and Europe, but he has gone out into space, to the moon, etc.. The white man is not afraid to go outside of the limitation of the earth without permission from anyone. Yet, there are those among African-Americans who are afraid just to go to the bathroom without

permission from the white man, not to mention establishing trades with other countries or exploring the universe.

According to the Bible, God in his promise to Abraham made an association with the identity of Abraham's seed with that of Cosmic regions. He said, "*And he brought him forth abroad, and said look now toward heaven and to the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be.*" (Gen. 15:5). According to the history of Abraham and the Black Stone in Mecca, it is reported that the Black Stone was originally a light in the heaven. Some report that when it fell to the earth it turned black, as it was burned while entering the earths atmosphere. The falling of this light from the sky served as a sign to Abraham as to where to build the Kaaba, the first House erected by man for the glory of ALLAH (God). There was a connection or union made between the heavenly object and the earth.

Professor Hilton Hotema explains in his book The Mysterious Sphinx, "Man contains within himself all the powers, systems, planets and globe of the universe. He is the Microcosm of the Macrocosm... The chemical elements of all bodies, from the star above to man below, are the same. They never change, never lose their identity. They enter into the composition of all things, and are always governed by the same cosmic law... The Masters taught that the human body is definitely related to and linked with the entire universe and all its parts, and they are ruled by the same law." (pg. 35, 36). Cosmic Man is universal man.

Imam W. Deen Muhammad explained, "In order to be able to work safely with any concept, you have to see it in its reality. Every concept is formed from the cosmic concept. It is the cosmic concept that gives birth to every other concept. Every animal, every plant, every human being, every body, every stone, every crystal forms in the context of the cosmic world... your narrow picture of your identity makes you very small. ALLAH says, "*O' man think not that your reality is bigger than the external reality.*" He patterned man's life and his reality on the pattern and order of the universe. You have a universal discipline in your nature and being. It is that universal discipline that accounts for your well-being. If you lose

those universal disciplines you will lose your well being..... We need to know the role of matter, cosmic reality, in order to appreciate the role of man.....We need to turn the race on, we need to turn the masses of African-American people on to this kind of thinking and appreciation of image, of self view, of self- identity, where we identify ourselves not in White man's history first, we identify ourselves in God's handiwork first..... Human influences are favored by cosmic influences. It is cosmic influence that gives real muscles, purposes, etc. to human influences... Our religion teaches us to identify as a member in the body universe..... Man, according to God's vision of man, was a cosmic man from the beginning... Man gets his sense of perfect order from his perception of the cosmic order.... Man has benefitted from the perfect working, order, and courses of the heavenly bodies. " (Los Angeles Lecture, 11/15/87).

Now that we have established the importance of viewing ourselves as members in the total family of the universe, instead of just Black Americans with limited rights and abilities, let us turn our attention to the story of Joseph and it's similarities to the African-American experiences.

CHAPTER VI

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

"Verily in Joseph and his brethren are signs (or symbols) for seekers (after Truth)- " (H.Q. 12:7). The Holy Qur'an says that the story of Joseph and his brothers has great meaning and profound wisdom for those who are interested in finding the depth of truth. Both the Bible and Qur'an start out by giving a picture of Joseph in connection with the heavenly order. The Bible states, "*Behold, I have dreamed a dream more: and behold the sun and the moon and eleven stars made obeisance to me.*" (Genesis 37:9). The Holy Qur'an states, "*Behold, Joseph said to his father: "O my father! I did see eleven stars and the sun and the moon: I saw them prostrate themselves to me!*" (12 :4). Jacob told Joseph that his dream meant that he would one day be ruler over the family. It is reported that his brothers became jealous and angry with Joseph and conspired to get rid of him.

Let us consider the fact that Jacob told Joseph what the dream meant. This says something about Jacob. Evidently he too had been blessed with the ability to interpret. He too must have received the towel from the Creator. It can be reasoned then that Joseph was blessed by God to inherit great insight from his father.

Nevertheless, there were thirteen lights bowing to Joseph. As we mentioned in a previous chapter, there are thirteen stars above the logo on the American dollar bill. There are also thirteen layers to the pyramid on the American dollar bill. The sun represents enlightenment and the moon, because it reflects rather than projects light, alludes to spiritual thoughts and action. The sun is the light of the day and the moon "rules the night." Therefore, Joseph was going to be blessed with material, rational insight

(symbolized by the sun), and spiritual logic and spiritual consciousness (represented by the moon). The stars symbolize enlightened spiritual thoughts. The Scriptures say, there were eleven stars. The Bible also speaks of eleven men who went to Galilee and worshipped Jesus: "*And eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted.*" (Matthew 28:16-17). The Bible also says he told these eleven men to go throughout the world and preach the message of truth. (Mark 16:14).

Joseph's dream was telling him that his mastery of rational/material logic and spiritual principles would make him a leader over men of intelligence. Joseph was destined for Egypt. Time and circumstances were going to place Joseph in Egypt. As we have already mentioned, Egypt had two major mystery systems: The Osirian mystery system and the Isisian mystery system. Osiris was symbolized by the sun and Isis was represented by the moon. One represented the greater mysteries and the other, the lesser mysteries. It could be understood then that the Sun and the Moon bowing to Joseph means that Joseph would be blessed with greater knowledge than what the students were learning in the mystery system. The Scripture says that he saw the sun (Osiris) and the moon (Isis) making prostration to him. The stars represent those who appear to have lesser light (knowledge) than the students of the mystery systems.

According to the Scriptures Joseph did grow into a greater understanding of the sacred wisdom than those who looked to Osiris (the sun) and Isis (the moon) for light and guidance. The Scripture says that Pharaoh called all his learned men, his doctors, lawyers, philosophers, Master Masons, Post Masters, Worshipful Masters, etc. together to interpret and explain the dream that troubled him so very much. But with all their learning, all their knowledge, all their wisdom, all their secrets, they could not interpret and explain the dream. The Bible and Qur'an say that Joseph, having been blessed with greater understanding from ALLAH (God), was able to interpret and explain the dream. Consequently, the King placed him over the Storehouse of Wisdom. ALLAH-U-Akbar.

Let us examine a few things that happened to Joseph before he became leader over the storehouse. The Bible says Joseph wore a coat of many colors. It also says that his brothers plotted against him. The story says they first stripped Joseph of his coat of many colors, and then they cast him into a dry well. (Genesis 37:23,24). The Holy Qur'an states: "*So they did take him away, and they all agreed to throw him down to the bottom of the well: and we put into his heart (This Message): "Of a surety thou shalt (one day) tell them the truth of this their affair while they know (thee) not*" (12:15). The Scripture goes on to say that some travellers stopped by the well to get some water, and there they found Joseph. At that point Joseph was sold into bondage by his brother. In the words of the Qur'an, "*The (Brethren) sold him for a miserable price -- for a few dirhams counted out: In such low estimation did they hold him.*" (12:20). The Bible says that his brothers in their conclusion about the fate of Joseph stated, "*Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother, and our flesh: and his brethren were content. Then there passed by Midionites, merchant men; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph in Egypt.*" (Genesis 37: 27,28).

The story says that once Joseph was sold into Egypt. He too, like Moses, was brought into the house of Aziz, the great Pharaoh. When Joseph had reached manhood and had been blessed by God with power and knowledge, the King's wife tried to seduce him. The Qur'an says, "*But she in whose house he was, sought to seduce him from his true self: she fastened the doors, and said: "Now come, thou (dear one)!"... and with passion did she desire him. And he would have desired her, but that he saw the evidence of his Lord: thus (did we order) that we might turn away from him (all) evil and shameful deeds: For he was one of Our servants. Sincere and purified.*" (12: 23-24). It is further reported that Jospeh preferred prison rather than submit to the desire and wishes of Pharaoh's wife. It was decided by the men that Joseph be thrown into prison. While Joseph was in prison he met two men and taught them the oneness of ALLAH (H.Q. 12:39).

One night the king had a dream. In his dream he saw seven fat cattles being consumed by seven lean cattles, and seven green ears of corn, and seven others withered. When he awoke in the morning his spirit was troubled. So the Bible says, "*...and he sent and called for all the magician of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh*" (Genesis 41:8). The Qur'an reports that Pharaoh said, "*.... O ye chief, expound to me my vision if it be that ye can interpret vision. They said "A confused medley of dreams: and we are not skilled in the interpretation of dreams.*" (12 :43, 44).

The inability of the wise men of Egypt to interpret the King's vision, speaks to the limitation of their knowledge. This is a potent due to the wise. This one event in this story shows us that with all of the knowledge and science that the Egyptians had come into, there was still much more for them to learn. No man or nation has all of the answers to the mysteries of life. This shows us that many times the answer or the solutions to the problem may come from where you least expect it. The answers are not always with the elite, it is not with those who have been initiated into the esoteric schools of secret knowledge, but it is with the common man whom God has turned on to the secrets of His vast creation, and whom he has blessed with insight into the sacred scriptures. The story says that a man told the King about Joseph and he sent for him. However, before Joseph came to the King he requested that his reputation be cleared and that the truth be made known concerning the King's wife. After this was done he went before the King and explained the meaning of the vision. It represented seven years of plenty, prosperity, and seven years of adversity and famine. As a result he was placed over the storehouse.

The Bible and Qur'an say that his brothers had to come to him in order to get food. At first they did not realize that it was him. Joseph passed the King's cup to his brother Benjamin. The king's cup represents his knowledge; Joseph passed the knowledge to his brother. The name Benjamin means *son of my right hand..* The right hand symbolizes strength, consciousness. The right hand is usually the stronger hand. Joseph represented the left hand passing

the knowledge to the right hand. Symbolically it refers to the material growth and development of man's physical and mental make-up. The human being grows from weakness (left) to strength (right). According to some interpretations, Joseph represents imagination or the subconscious. The passing or moving of thoughts and ideas from the subconscious, hidden mind, to the conscious, active mind. It means expressing or manifesting the idea.

In the Masonic order the brothers are taught to step off with the left foot first, as an entered apprentice. The second step is with the right foot, as a fellow craft. The name of the first Masonic handshake is Boaz, which was the name of the left column at the entrance of Solomon's temple. The second hand shake is called Jachin, which was the name of the column on the right side of Solomon's temple. Joseph passing the cup can be understood to also mean that the great knowledge that is needed for leadership should not be kept hid away in the secret chambers, rather it should be shared and expressed to the conscious mind of the masses of people.

WE ARE LIKE JOSEPH

The history and experience of the African-American in this country has many parallels with the story of Joseph. Here I will mention first a few. History tells us that some of our own African brothers sold us to the Caucasian slave traders. After crossing the Atlantic Ocean, we were subjected to the worst form of slavery ever known to man. However, it is documented that some of the slaves, like Joseph, were allowed into the Master's house. It is further documented that some of the slave masters' wives and daughters desired their black slaves, just like the white male slave masters desired the black woman. Even today, because of some of the lies that were told about the African-American's genital organs, many Caucasian women desire to experience a relationship with the African-American man. History also reveals that many of the slaves were cast into prison for refusing to obey the commands of white

society. The woman represents society, and Pharaoh represents the leadership.

Many African-Americans, like Joseph, prefer to go to prison rather than get intimately involved with the perverted society. In the story of Joseph it is reported that one of the men who was in prison with Joseph received freedom. Joseph asked him to mention him to the king. The story says that he forgot about Joseph until things got hot, until the King got troubled. Then he remembered Joseph. We have had many of our so-called friends, who were in the prison of racism, oppression and poverty with the masses of African-Americans, forget about their people once they got a position close to their master. Many of our so-called leaders, who we looked to to express our concerns to the leadership of this country, turned their backs on us once they get "a fist full of dollars." The only time we see or hear from them is when their master gets angry, when it looks like they may be out of a job, when it looks like there may be a President coming into the White House that does not give a damn about that Uncle Tom, then they remember their brothers in the lower quarter. When they need our help to calm their Master, they say, 'yes call the Muslims, they understand, they know how to handle this thing, let them explain it.' They say, 'Let's call the masses of blacks together, we'll show them! Let us march on Washington by the thousands.' The man forgot Joseph until things got rough.

Recent history has shown us that some of our so-called friends have used the masses to achieve their own personal satisfaction. Joseph was wise; when the King sent for him, he asked, 'what was the "state of affairs" what is going on? I want to know, have things changed or is the society the same?' When some of these so-called leaders come to us we should ask them right away, "What is the state of affairs? What are the facts? Talk to us like intelligent people, not blind cattle."

The Scriptures say that after Joseph helped the King he told the King what he wanted. Joseph made sure he got something of great value and worth for service, which enabled him to help his brothers and his family. Joseph asked for a position of high

responsibility. Joseph had faith in the ALLAH (God). God has blessed some of us with great skill and abilities, great wisdom, but because we are not one of the "fellows" we are not given a chance to show the leadership a better plan for progress. There are great men among us like Imam W. Deen Muhammad and others who have profound insight into the sacred scriptures, and solutions for solving many of the ills of society.

The Bible says Pharaoh changed Joseph's name and gave him the name Zaphanath - Paaneah. The African-American's name was changed by the White American. The Scriptures say Joseph was taken from a well. (A well alludes to water). Although the Bible says it was a dry well, it still brings to mind a place for water. The African-American, like Moses and Joseph, was taken from the water. ALLAH says in the Qur'an that he created us from water. The story of Joseph inculcates many fine moral principles and precious jewels of wisdom. According to some authorities the name Joseph means "revealer of secret things." Joseph passed the cup to his younger brother. We too should pass the knowledge to the younger generations. We should pass on to them the plan for a glorious and productive future. Yes! we should leave them wisdom and money; not just great ideas, but the material resources that are needed to carry out the ideas.

CHAPTER VII

FROM THE OSIRIAN MYTH TO THE CRUCIFIX

Scripture informs us that there were some Jews in bondage in Egypt, and that they were influenced by some of the beliefs of the Egyptians. Some of the Jews even studied and learned under the the wise Egyptians. In Egyptian mythology there is a story about a great ruler named Osiris. According to the story this great ruler was the victim of a conspiracy by his brother, Seth. Legend has it that Osiris' brother Seth invited Osiris to a banquet that was in his honor. Prior to the banquet, Seth and his co-conspirators made a chest exactly to the measurements of Osiris' body. During the entertainment, Seth presented the chest and promised to give it to anyone whose body could most conveniently fit into it. The legend goes on to say that after several people tried unsuccessfully to fit into it, Osiris gave it a try, and it fitted him perfectly. Immediately after he laid down in the chest, Seth and his seventy-two conspirators rushed to the box, clamped the cover and nailed it shut. The chest with Osiris in it was then cast into the Nile River.

According to the Myth, there were those who loved Osiris and respected his leadership abilities and his great qualities. One such person was his sister-wife Isis. We are informed that when she heard of Osiris' death, she cut off one of the locks of her hair and put on the "mourning apparel of widowhood." Isis searched diligently all throughout Egypt, questing everyone she came in contact with. She is finally informed by some young children that the chest or coffin was lodged in the branches of a bush of the

tamarind tree, and that the chest was concealed in the trunk of the tree. Isis retrieved the chest and took Osiris' body back to Egypt.

Later, Seth came upon the body of Osiris and this time being more determined to get rid of Osiris, cut his body up into fourteen pieces, and scattered them throughout Egypt. Isis then began another search, except this time she was not just looking for one body, she was looking for fourteen pieces of the body. It is said that she found every piece except one, the phallus (penis). Being unable to recover the original organ, she made a substitute phallus of gold.

The Jews in bondage learned this story, just like the African-Americans during slavery learned the story of Jesus from the Caucasian slave master. The Scriptures say the Jews left Egypt with gold and other materials. It says that some of the Egyptians gave them silver, gold, jewels, etc. These things represent the valuable and precious knowledge and tradition of Egypt. History reveals that they then developed their schools of thought and incorporated many of the teachings of Egypt into their philosophies and ideologies, but under another name. So they established Jerusalem, took the emphasis off of Egypt and the Pyramids, and put it on Jerusalem and the building of Solomon's Temple. They changed the story of Osiris to the story of Hiram Abiff, the Master Builder.

C.W. Leadbeater explains, "Although our modern Freemasonic rites and symbols are derived from Egypt... they have reached us for the most part through the Jews. The tradition which has most influenced our modern Masonry is that of the Jewish Mysteries, so the greater part of our ceremonies are now cast in a Jewish form..... During their sojourn in Egypt certain of them had been initiated into some of the degrees of the Egyptian Mysteries... The Jews departed without much opposition, and after many years of wandering in the wilderness, conquered various tribes and took possession of Palestine.... Something both of the inner powers and of the Egyptian rituals has been faithfully handed down from generation to generation from the days of Moses until King Solomon came to the throne of his father David... The ceremonial handed down from the days of Moses was still Egyptian, and the initiates of the mysteries were yet symbolically engaged in building

the great pyramid, the House of Light, and in celebrating the death and resurrection of Osiris... King Solomon himself had inherited the Egyptian line of succession derived from Moses... The Jews applied what they knew of the Egyptian system to the temple of King Solomon, reflecting the wisdom of Egypt through the lens of their own fiery and poetical temperament, whence some portion of it gradually passed on the one hand into written and exoteric literature, and on the other was handed down in the secret Lodges of Masonry." (C.W. Leadbeater).

The Jews took the story of Osiris and changed it to the story of the mythical Hiram Abiff. They reversed the knowledge so that the eyes of the world would no longer look at Africa as the place of sublime wisdom, but would instead look at Jerusalem. This reversal of roles is reflected in the Jewish six pointed star which is really two pyramids, one pointing up and one pointing down.

According to some reports the pyramid pointing down means that the story of Osiris would be reversed. The Story of Hiram Abiff is now the most important story in Masonry. He now is the Master Builder. What happened to Hiram Abiff? What does the legend say? It is essential that the reader understands that the transferral of these stories also alludes to the movement and progression of truths, ideas, philosophies and customs. Man and society has developed through stages of evolution. Words, concepts and religion have also developed through stages.

HIRAM ABIFF

The emphasis was removed from Egypt, northeast Africa. The truth about the real Master Builders was concealed and buried in the rubbish of lies and deceit. Only a few knew how to uncover it, i.e. those who have been taught the science of cryptology, which is the study of the dead--not the physical dead but so-called outdated ideas, concealed in ancient language. Even today Modern Masonry has what it calls Cryptic Degrees and Cryptic Masonry. Mackey explains it as "That division of the Masonic system which is directed

to the investigation and cultivation of the Cryptic Degrees. It is literally the Freemasonry of the Secret Vault: (Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Vol. 1 pg. 256).

The story of Hiram Abiff, the widow's son, was concocted by those who wanted to redirect the human focus. This story is loaded with gems and pearls of wisdom. It, like most myths and parables, has various interpretations. According to the legend Hiram Abiff was one of the three major persons responsible for the construction of Solomon's Temple. The legend says that King Solomon, Hiram King of Tyre, and Hirma Abiff came together and laid out the plans for the building of the Temple. It is reported that the great knowledge was to be kept between the three until the completion of the Temple. The legends goes on to say that one day while Hiram Abiff, the Master Builder, was on his way to make noon prayer he was approached by three Jewish ruffians. They were workers and their names were Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum. Originally there were fifteen men who plotted to murder the Master Builder, however, the other twelve recanted (because they had heavenly or spiritual consciousness. Twelve (12) represents the heavenly or spiritual).

Hiram Abiff was approached by Jubela at the south gate. Jubela said, "Grand Master Hiram, I am glad to meet you alone: this is an opportunity I have long sought. You know you promised us that when the temple was completed we should receive the secrets of a Master Mason, or the Master's word, whereby we might travel in foreign countries, work and receive Master's wages. The temple is nearly completed and we have not obtained that for which we so long sought. I therefore, demand of you the secrets of a Master Mason." Observe Hiram's response: "My brother, this an unusual way of asking for the secrets of a Master Mason, neither is it a proper time or place; you keep your promise and I will keep mine. Wait until the temple is completed, when if found worthy, you will doubtless receive them, otherwise you cannot." Jubela then says, "Talk not to me of time nor place; at first I did not doubt your veracity, but now I do! I therefore, now demand of you the secrets of a Master Mason!" Hiram says, "I shall not, neither can they be given until the temple is completed, and then only in the presence of

Solomon, King of Isreal, Hiram King of Tyre, and myself." Jubela then strikes him across the throat with the twenty-four inch gauge (which is one of the working tools of the first degree).

Hiram, the Master Builder, then turns and runs to the West gate. There he is met by Jubelo, who also demands the word (knowledge). Hiram refuses and is struck across the left breast by Jubelo with the square of 90 degrees (this is the working tool of the 2nd degree or Fellow-Craft). Hiram then makes a desperate attempt to escape through the East gate. There he is approached by Jubelum who demands of him the word. For refusing, Hirma Abiff, the Master Builder, is struck in the head with a setting maul (which is an instrument that is used by the Master Mason) which kills the Master Builder.

The Bible says, "*He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass; and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. .... Skillful to work in gold, and in silver, in brass, in iron, in stone, and crimson; also to grave any manner of graving and to find out every device which shall be put to him...*" (1 King 7:14 0; Chronicles 2:14).

Hiram was murdered by the same tools that he used to build the temple. A builder must have tools. The legend says he was a Master Builder, which means according to Freemasonry, his tools were the twenty-four inch gauge, the common gavel, the plumb, the level, the square, the trowel. He would also have used the setting maul, the spade, the compass, the chisel, etc. The first point here is that the ruffians, Jubela, Jubelo, and Jubelum used the same tools and knowledge of those tools to kill the Master Builder. This refers to the duality of knowledge and nature, It is like fire, which can be used for good or bad. Fire is not bad in itself. This aspect of the legend is showing how the knowledge was twisted, reversed and used not for construction but for destruction.

It is further explained that after Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum killed Hiram Abiff they buried him in the rubbish of the temple. At twelve o'clock midnight they took his body and buried it again; this

time in the west, on a hill. Remember, Seth first cast Osiris' body down the river; secondly he cut it up into fourteen pieces and scattered it throughout the land. The story says the three ruffians, after killing Hiram Abiff, tried to flee to Africa, Ethiopia. Legend informs us that they approached a sea-captain down at the port of Joppa (Joppa is also the password of a Mark Master Mason) with hopes of leaving Jerusalem and going to Ethiopia. But, they were refused because they did not have the password of Solomon.

The Holy Qur'an clears Solomon of any such foolishness and it explains how the people of his day could have guarded themselves against such evils. *"They followed what the evil ones gave out (falsely) against the power of Solomon: the blasphemers were not Solomon but the evil ones teaching men magic, and such things as came down at Babylon to the Angels Harut and Marut. But neither of these taught anyone (such things) without saying: "We are only for trial; So do not blaspheme. They learned from them the means to sow discord between man and wife. But they could not thus harm anyone except by ALLAH's permission. And they learned what harmed them, not what profited them. And they knew that the buyers of (magic) would have no share in the happiness of the Hereafter. And vile was the price for which they did sell their souls, if they but knew! If they had kept their Faith and guarded themselves from evil, far better had been the reward from their Lord, if they but knew!* (2 :102,3).

The three murderers wanted to escape to Ethiopia. Why Ethiopia? Ethiopia represents the origin of "a system of ethics." The name Ethiopia means Ethical Vision. Ethia refers to ethics, Opia refers to seeing, therefore, Ethi-opia means "Ethical Focus." One of the reasons then why Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum wanted to go to Ethiopia was to get their moral vision in order. They had lost sight on the great plan and destiny of man. Another explanation is based on the fact that there was a great Queen who ruled Ethiopia and the ruffians were fleeing there in hopes of pleading with her for Amnesty. Rudoplh R. Windsor explains in his book From Babylon to Timbuktu, "In the year 1012 B.C. an Ethiopian queen named Bilkis visited King Solomon in Jerusalem. Bilkis came from the Kingdom of Sheba which was part of the Ethiopian empire. This

empire included Upper Egypt, Ethiopia and Arabia, which included the Kingdom of Sheba."

It is also a further possibility that they tried to flee to Ethiopia because at that time according to the Qur'anic story, the Hoopoe said... "*I found (there) a woman ruling over them and provided with every requisite; and she has a magnificent throne. I found her and her people worshipping the sun besides ALLAH: Satan has made their deeds seem pleasing in their eyes, and has kept them away from the path, - so they receive no guidance (kept them away from the path) , that they should not worship ALLAH who brings to light what is hidden in the heavens and the earth, and knows what ye hide and what ye reveal. ALLAH! - there is no God but He! Lord of the Throne Supreme!*" (27:23-26).

The legend says that they were unable to get to Ethiopia because they did not have the correct pass, they could not break the riddle. Islamic history reveals, however, that during the early years of the Prophet Muhammad's mission some of his faithful followers migrated to Ethiopia and were allowed to enter and stay there with the Christian people. According to Islamic history the Muslims were seeking to escape persecution from their enemies and they were asked to explain their religion and what it said about Jesus. Apparently they had the right message because they were allowed into Ethiopia where they received protection.

The legend says that Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum then returned inland where they hid in a cave. The ritual states that King Solomon, upon arriving at the Temple the next day and finding the laborers in confusion and no designs upon the trestle-board, became concerned about Hiram Abiff. Solomon was then informed that Hiram Abiff had not been seen since twelve noon the day before. At that point Solomon ordered a strict search of every apartment of the Temple. Not finding him anywhere in the Temple, Solomon ordered the Grand Secretary to take roll-call, to see if any of the craft were missing along with Hiram Abiff. The roll-call revealed that Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum were missing. King Solomon then ordered a search.

He ordered twelve men to do the search. They were divided into parties of threes. They traveled East, West, North and South in search of the Master Builder. It is reported that the party that traveled to the west met the captain down near the port of Joppa and asked if he had seen any strangers pass that way. The captain told them that he has seen Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum and that they wanted to go to Ethiopia, but not having the password were unable to obtain a passage into Ethiopia. They returned and informed King Solomon, who then ordered them to go again and search for Hiram Abiff. According to the legend they searched diligently for the Grand Master Builder. It is reported that "one of them being more weary than the other sat down at the brow of the hill where Hiram was buried." On attempting to arise to his feet, he accidentally caught hold of the acacia plant which easily gave way. This excited his curiosity, he then called his other two companions. They examined the area and found that it was a newly made grave. The story says, at that point the three ruffians confessed to the crime, and were taken to Solomon, who upon due conviction and confession of their guilt, ordered them to be executed.

There is another account of the capture of the ruffians which says that a party of nine men led by "Joabert" was directed to the cave where one of the ruffians was hiding. As the ruffians slept, Joabert ran into the cave and cut his head off. The ritual states, "What have you seen in the cave?" ANSWER: "A light, a poniard and a fountain, with the traitor." QUESTION: "Who showed you the way there?" ANSWER: "An unknown person." QUESTION: "What does the dog represent that you see in the chapter on the road near the cave?" ANSWER: "The unknown person or the good citizen who conducted the Elected." ANSWER: "Just at dark." QUESTION: "When did they return?" ANSWER: "At day break."

It is interesting to note that the Holy Qur'an speaks of the "companion of the cave." It too refers to a dog at the cave. The Qur'an says "*Behold, the youths, betook themselves to the cave: they said "Our Lord! bestow on us mercy from thyself, and dispose of our affair for us in the right way!*" (18:10). In Ayat eighteen it states: "*Thou wouldst have deemed them awake, whilst they are asleep, and we turned them on their right and on their left sides: their*

dog stretching forth his two fore-legs on the threshold; If thou had come up on to them, thou would have certainly turned back from them in flight, and would certainly have been filled with terror of them." The twenty-second ayat reads, "*Some say they were three, the dog being the forth among them; (others) say they were five, the dog being the sixth, - doubtfully guessing at the unknown; (yet others) say they were seven, the dog being the eight. Say thou: My Lord knoweth best their number; It is but few that know their (real care). Enter not, therefore, into controversies concerning them, except on a matter that is clear, nor consult any of them about (the affair of) the Sleeper.*"

Albert Pike writes, "Isis was also aided in her search by Anubis in the shape of a dog. He was Sirius or the Dog-Star, the friend and counsellor of Osiris, and the inventor of language, grammar, astronomy....." (Morals and Dogma pg. 376).

There is still another account which says that two of the ruffians were found by Bengabee, one of the attendants of Solomon's country of Cheth which was ruled by King Macha. They were returned to Jerusalem where they were executed. The ritual states, "On the day of execution they were tied to two stakes by the neck, middle and feet, their arms behind them. The executioners then opened them from the breast to the arse-pubis, and cross wise; and they were left in this condition eight hours, in which time the flies and other insects sucked their blood. Their groans and complaints were so lamentable that they even moved the executioner, who cut off their heads and threw their bodies over the walls of Jerusalem to serve as food for the cows and wild beasts of the forest."

The legend further informs us that after the three ruffians were executed, Solomon, Hiram King of Tyree and some of the laborers went to the grave where the Master Builder laid. However, the story says prior to approaching the grave King Solomon and King Hiram agreed that "the first sign given on arriving at the grave and the first word spoken after the body shall be raised shall be adopted as the sign and word for the regulation of all Master's lodges until future generations shall find out the right." The Master

Builder had laid in the grave fifteen days, so when they approached the grave the scent and the condition of the body was so terrible that the men spontaneously threw the back of their right hand in front of their faces, shielding their eyes, and turned their heads slightly to the right. The left hand is dropped a little lower than its right and is turned downwards, as if shielding the eyes from something on the ground. This was adopted as the sign of honor.

According to the Masonic account of this story the first word that was spoken was Mah-Hah-Bone. Some Masonic authorities say it is pronounced Machaben or Machbinna. There are various interpretation of the meaning of this substitute word. Some say it refers to King Macha and Bengabee. Others say it alludes to the three men who found the grave first. In terms of its definition it is said to mean: "What the Builder"; "That the Builder." "Marrow in the bone." Mah-Hah-Bone, marrow in the bone.

The story says Solomon then ordered one of his men to try and raise the Master Builder from the grave with the entered apprentice (8th degree) grip. (This is done by grasping the hand as in a regular handshake, except the thumb is placed on the first knuckle). However, because the body had been dead for fifteen days, the skin slipped, making the first attempt unsuccessful. Solomon then ordered that a second effort be made. He said to Hiram King of Tyre, "My worthy companion of Tyre, you will now take the body by the Fellow Craft's (second degree) grasp and see if it can be so raised. Takes the right hand as in a regular handshake, places the thumb on the second knuckle and tries to raise the Master Builder. The skin slipped again making it unable to be raised.

Solomon then says, "I now command perfect silence. And with your assistance my worthy companion of Tyre, I will now raise the body by the strong grips of a Master Mason or the "Lion's paw." Solomon then stepped forward and took the Master Builder by the right hand - grasping it firmly - he pressed the tips of his fingers strongly against the joint of the Master Builder's wrist where it unites with the hand, and with great force pulled him from the grave on the "five points of fellowship" which are: Foot to Foot, Knee to Knee, Breast to Breast, Hand to Back, and Mouth to Ear.

In this position the substitute word "Mah-Hah-Bone" is whispered into the ear. The Body is then taken to the Temple where it is buried in the Holy of Holies, which is the third level of the Temple. King Solomon's Temple consisted of the "Ground Floor", the "Middle Chambers" and the "Holy of Holies".

Each Master Mason in imitation of the legend of Hirma Abiff, must experience the event. He is then said to have been "Raised". In Masonic jargon the question is asked, "From what, to what, by what, on what were you raised to the degree of Master Mason?" ANSWER: "From a dead level to a living perpendicular to the square, by the strong grip of a Master Mason on Lion's Paw, on the five of points of Fellowship." This story has great spiritual meaning and extreme significance in the life of man, The profound messages that it relays speaks very clearly to an event that happens in the life of modern man. This will be discussed in a subsequent section.

FROM OSIRIS, TO HIRAM, TO THE CRUCIFIX

The Story of Osiris was replaced by the story of Hiram Abiff. The life and history of the true Master Builders were replaced by a Myth, a made-up man. The Holy Qur'an says, "*But there are, among men, Those who purchase idle tales, without knowledge (or meaning), to mislead (men) from the Path of ALLAH (God) and throw ridicule (on the Path) : for such there will be a humiliating penalty.*" (31:6).

According to the Bible, Hiram Abiff was a real person, and he finished his work on the Temple (I Kings 7:14), The Hiram Abiff of Jewish Masonry is a myth. Although Jerusalem and the great Temple that was built by Solomon are considered as sacred by Muslim's, Christians and Jews, it should be noted that there are some things that man has attributed to Solomon, the Temple and Jerusalem that are not true, and in fact are contrary to the sacred words of Scripture.

The story of Osiris was replaced by the legend of Hiram Abiff, the myth was then transformed to the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Bible says Jesus too was a widow's son because he had no earthly father. It says he was Master Builder also. The Bible says Jesus said, "*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*" (John 2:19). Although Jesus was speaking of his body and not the physical concrete temple he still made reference to the three levels.

The Hiramic Legend says the Temple of Solomon had three levels (Ground Floor, Middle Chamber and Holy of Holies). The candidate's initiation into the Ancient Egyptian Mystery systems went through three levels. The Bible also says Jesus was missing and there was a search for him--just as Hiram was missing and there was a search for him. Likewise for Osiris. The Bible says Joseph and many went looking for Jesus, "*But, they supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances, and when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.*" (Luke 2:44,45). Jesus like Osiris and Hiram was a leader. Osiris was a leader, a ruler over Egypt; Hiram was the leader among the builders of Solomon's Temple; and Jesus is said to have been the leader of the twelve disciples. The Myth says that Jesus was also murdered. The Bible says he was pierced in the left side by a sword. Hiram was stuck in the left breast. A crown of thorns was placed on Jesus's head, causing injury to his head. Hiram Abiff was struck in the head. Jesus was given vinegar, which cut off the wind in his throat. Hiram Abiff was struck in the throat. The seed was taken from Jesus' hand and he was struck in the head with it. He was then crucified on a cross on top a hill (Matthew 27).

Hiram was buried at the brow of a hill and the acacia plant was placed at the head of the grave. The Bible says Jesus was nailed on a cross. A cross points in the four carnal directions: north, east, south, and west. What does this mean? It means that Jesus'

universal message would be used against him; he would be crucified upon his own message. His responsibility would be fixed. Hiram Abiff was also killed by his own working tools. The Legend says Hiram was killed by Jews. The Bible says some Jews participated in the capture and murder of Jesus. The Bible says they preferred that the criminal Barabbas go free rather than the righteous man, Jesus. The Bible says Jesus rose after three days, and finally ascended to heaven. According to the legend, Hiram Abiff was raised after the third attempt and he was placed in the Holy of Holies.

There are many similarities between the story of Osiris, Hiram and the crucifixion of Jesus, as well as other ancient myths. However, it is essential to realize that the myths point us to realities in the life of man. The death and resurrection of the character in the myths alludes to many things, one of which is the birth, death and resurrection of knowledge. The covering and uncovering of truth.

THE CROSS

There are several types of crosses. The Egyptian cross is called the Ankh. It has a circle on it, and it symbolizes life. Then there is the Tau cross which is made like the letter "T". Our concern however is with the most commonly seen cross, the "Cross of Passion" + . It is called the cross of passion because it is supposed to be the type of cross that Jesus was crucified on. This cross is a symbol that points in four directions: north, east, south and west. It points up, down, left and right. For these reasons it has been identified as an emblem of universality. It is similar to the base of the Pyramid. This cross consists of four 90° (ninety degree) angles, which totals three hundred and sixty degrees (360°), or 3 + 6 + 0, which equals nine (9).

The Bible says in the Book of Job that Satan had formed a cross upon the earth. It reads, "*And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered and said, from going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it.*" (Job 1:7). ALLAH reveals in the Holy Qur'an that Satan said he would

approach man from these four points also. The Qur'an states that Satan said, "*Then will I assault them from before them and behind them from their right and their left: Nor wilt Thou find, in most of them Gratitude (for Thy mercies)* . (7:17).

Satan forming a cross means he was going to launch a universal plot to destroy man in each corner of the earth. It can also be reasoned that he will be an open opponent to man (before him); he will be a secret enemy to many (behind him); he will come at man from his strong side (right), and his weaknesses (left side). The cross then can be used to represent a positive symbol or a negative one, depending on who is using it. This cross consisting of 360 degrees is equal to the circumference of a circle; which represents completion.

The Bible says Jesus was nailed on the cross. The Holy Qur'an says, "*That they said (in boast). "We killed Christ Jesus The son of Mary, the Apostle of ALLAH. But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts with no (certain) knowledge but only conjecture to follow, for of a surety they killed him not.*" (4:157). The Bible says that this man was crucified in the form of a cross, which means that he must have had his arms extended to the left and right. If we put our feet together and extend our arms we will form a cross. This tells us something very important. This tells us symbolically that Jesus was formed in a position that alludes to the universal message that was to come.

If Jesus formed a cross which is a sign, and he was nailed to another cross or sign, then the so-called crucifix gives us a picture of two crosses or two signs. Each cross consists of 360 degrees, which is the circumference of a circle. If we take this a little further we can reason that there was a circle upon a circle, or a wheel within a wheel. The total number of degrees would be 720 (360 + 360), which according to the Masonic formula would equal 7 + 2 + 0, which totals nine (9). Jesus in the form of a cross totals 360, or 3 + 6 + 0, which equals nine; and the wooden cross that he was supposedly nailed to equals 360 (or 3 + 6 + 0 = 9); both crosses together would total 18, or 1 + 8, which equals 9 (nine). The Bible

says Jesus died in the ninth hour (Mark 15:34). It is reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad was born into Prophethood and Messengership in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. He received the first revelation of the Holy Qur'an during that ninth month (Ramadan).

The Bible says Christ represents the word. It is believed by Christians that the Bible's statement, that the "word took on flesh and dwelt with men" refers to Christ Jesus, the son of Mary (John 1:14). This tells us then that **the word or message was crucified on the cross, and not the man Jesus.** What cross was it crucified on? It was crucified on the cross that Satan, the enemies of the true human being, made; Satan tried to kill the message of truth throughout (the four corners of) the world.

Masons are in search of a lost word, which they say represents "Divine Truth" (See Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry). The human being travels throughout the world seeking knowledge and truth. History tells us that in every quarter of the earth man has been oppressed in one form or another. **The so-called crucifixion of Jesus on a cross also represents the universal oppression of man.** The Bible says Jesus was nailed to the cross. It says they put nails in his hands and nails in his feet. Why not nails in his knees, or in his head? Each human being has nails in his hands called fingernails, and nails in his feet called toenails. This story is telling the alert mind what the master manipulators were going to do. No! Jesus was not crucified on the cross! That righteous Prophet and servant of God was raised to ranks of dignity and honor. He has been cleared of the lies that have been told on him.

The Bible says that while Jesus was on the cross he said to his people who were looking at him, "*behold your Mother*" (John 19:27). He drew their attention to the community that gives birth to man. The woman or mother is a symbol of society, and the man is a symbol of leadership. He was telling them to look to the community for new leadership. He also spoke of a comforter (John 14:16). The Muslim community is called the "Ummatul Islamiyya" The word "ummat" means community, and it is derived from the word

"Ummien" which means mother. He was telling them that the future leadership would not come from the high class priests, but from the common person in the community. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came up from the common people, he was a common man who was raised up by ALLAH to be a model, example human being. He established a balanced community.

The Bible also says they placed thorns on his head. After they took the word off of the cross they hid it in a cave. What are thorns? Thorns represent secrecy. The thorns keep us from getting water from the cactus with our natural hands. It prevents us from touching the pretty rose. It has points on it. The secret order has a tyler at the door, armed with a pointed sword to keep the uninitiated, the general public, out away from the cave, or secret vaults, that contain the precious water of life--the essentials for human growth and survival.

Jesus apparently realized that there would be an attempt to conceal the message of truth universally, because he, according to the Bible, changed his focus from first the lost sheep in the house of Israel, to a broad universal focus. The Bible says he instructed his disciples to take the message to every quarter of the earth. "*Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" (St. Mark 16:15).

History tells us however that this did not occur. Many of the followers of Jesus were killed and others went into hiding and secrecy. History reveals that such Christian groups as the Gnostics lost sight or the pure message of Jesus, went into secrecy, and excluded the masses of people from the great truth that Jesus taught. In fact, they taught something quite different.

CHAPTER VIII

THE GNOSTICS

The Gnostics (gnosis: intuitive knowledge in spiritual matters) believed that certain men had the divine spark and that they could reach a level of Christhood. They denied the existence of the Christ as a person, but accepted it as a stage in human development that could only be attained by certain people. They taught of "the Christ within." Alvin Boyd Kuhn in his book, Shadow of The Third Century: A Revolution of Christianity, explains that the Gnostics "had no difficulty with a Christ-emanation assuming temporary embodiment. What they could not tolerate was a real flesh and blood leader, a High Priest and King of Humanity... the Docetic Gnostics refused to accept Jesus as a living man." (pg. 385).

The Gnostics, like the Freemasons of today, required an initiation of its members. In fact, some authorities claim that Masonry derived from the Gnostics and some of the other early Christian groups that formed during and after the life of Jesus. It is believed that the letter "G" that is found in the center of the Compass and Square represents God, Geometry, and Gnostian. The branch of the Masons called the Knights Templars are said to have been greatly influenced by the Gnostics.

The word Gnosticism is derived from the Greek word "gnosis" which means knowledge. It was a term used to signify the science of divine or spiritual things. The Gnostics arose from among the philosophers who were converts of Paul, who sought to mingle the teachings of Jesus with some of the Jewish and Greek mystery

doctrines. Concerning the Gnostics, Imam W.D. Muhammad explained,

"*The Gnostics of Christianity misinterpreted Jesus Christ (PBUH) and his mission on this earth, and they held the world in ignorance for hundreds of years before the people were enlightened by the insights of Qur'anic revelations. They then looked again to see if they had mis-read, or misinterpreted, or gone astray from the directions of Gospel...they discovered they had... They thought Christianity was an exercise to train man's divinity, his muscles of divinity, to bring him into God-consciousness.... They thought that the few men with the divine spark were chosen to be the caretakers and the Masters of the world...to keep the ignorant in check. Those without that spark, kept them in check. . . Only those who they considered to have divine spark, illumined intellect, illumined by the Gnostic idea, the Gnostic ideology, their perception of the Bible, Revelation, Jesus' life---if you didn't have that, you were common animal man and you were to be treated as such...*" ("The Islamic Formula for Successful Life", Los Angeles - 1987).

CHAPTER IX

THE ISLAMIC DESTINY

FROM SECRECY TO OPENNESS

"And in the alternation of Night and Day, and the fact that ALLAH sends down sustenance from the sky, and revives therewith the earth after its death, and the change of the winds, --are signs for those that are wise." (H.Q. 45:5)

The Qur'an says the Creator has given us various signs so that we may learn wisdom and be guided aright. There are great signs in creation for those who are wise and reflect upon those signs. Our concern here is with the signs that we see in creation and in the life of man, that call our attention to the natural growth and progression from secrecy to openness. The scripture and nature show us that man and knowledge grows and develops in stages. We see that the sun itself rises gradually from its hidden quarters to its peek in the heavens, where it illuminates the sky and reveals what was hidden on earth by the darkness of the night.

The darkness, however, was necessary for rest and rejuvenation. The Qur'an says ALLAH created the night for rest and the day for activity. In observing certain aspects and functions in creation, and by reflecting on certain periods in history, one could conclude that secrecy is in fact a necessary but temporary stage in the growth and development of man and society. Secrecy in itself is not completely wrong or evil. We find, for example, that in order for a seed to grow and give life, it must first be placed in the dark quarters of the earth, then covered or concealed with dirt. In its

seclusion it roots and stabilizes itself, undisturbed by the outer world. Once the seed has stabilized itself and if the right conditions prevail, it will eventually burst forth into the open environment and declare its existence. It reaches for the light of the great ball of energy, the sun. If that seed does not come into the open, it will die. ALLAH says in the Holy Qur'an, "*See ye the seed that ye sow in the ground? Is it ye that cause it to grow, or are We The Cause? Were it Our Will, We could crumble it to dry powder and ye would be left in wonderment, saying "we are indeed left with debts (for nothing): indeed left with debts (for nothing): indeed are we shut out (of the fruits of our labour).*" (56:63-67).

We also observe in the birth process of the human being, that the newly conceived life grows in the darkness of its mother for a period of time before anyone knows it is there. Eventually, as the baby forms and grows, it becomes obvious that the baby is there. However, the baby stays in its private resting place approximately nine months. It then comes forth out of its secret place into the open world of man. If the baby does not come after that period of time, it has to be taken out by the doctor. If not it would die. The Holy Qur'an states "*Do ye then see the human seed that ye throw out?*" (56:58).

The Bible says that Jesus originally directed his disciples to only teach the "Gospel" to a chosen and select small group of people, and not to the general masses of people. "*Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel*" (Matthews 10:5-6). This was a temporary step in Jesus' movement towards openness and universality. According to the Bible, Jesus' message was to grow from a small secluded focus to a broad focus that included all of the masses of people. He instructs his deciples to, "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations.*" (Mark 28:18). This clearly shows a progression of the message.

The history of Islam and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) shows that for a short period of time the Prophet preached the religion in secrecy. At that time he only taught it to some of his relatives and friends. It is reported that "After an interval, the

Revelations continued and he quietly, but steadfastly, began to preach the Doctrine of Monotheism (Oneness of God).... This great and noble preaching continued in secret for three years" (Encyclopedia of Seerah Vol. 1 page 19). After the three years he was commanded by ALLAH, the Creator, to teach the message openly: "*...Therefore, expound openly what thou art commanded, and turn away from those who join false gods with ALLAH*" (H.Q. 15:94).

There seems to be a tendency in man to conceal those things he deems valuable. Often times it is done to preserve the knowledge, and out of love for the knowledge. However, the Creator has ordered that man sacrifice that tendency in him to hoard the precious resource. That message is given in the story of Abraham sacrificing the ram (knowledge) and sharing it with the people. Some men have looked at some of the signs in creation and have concluded that the best way to advance humanity, and to develop the mental and spiritual muscles of man, is by covering and oppressing his will and intellect. Others have concluded that the most appropriate way to teach man is to first instruct him in secret. As a result, man has established elaborate mystery systems designed primarily for the purpose of concealing the knowledge from the general masses of the people. They missed the mark. The religion of Islam condemns this. The Holy Qur'an condemns the establishment of secret societies, especially those that are not formed for the express purpose of advancing good. The Qur'an says ALLAH created all of the sons of Adam with dignity and honor, not just a select few.

Barring the secret orders that have at their core the control and manipulation of the human being--which is most of them--secrecy is permissible. The Qur'an says, "*In most of their secret talks there is no good: but if one exhorts to a deed of charity, of justice, or conciliation between men (secrecy is permissible)....*" (4:114). Secrecy seems to have been a stage of development in the life of man and society. It is not the destiny of man, nor the aim of the prophets. Secrecy reflects a weakness and fear on the part of man to trust the precious jewels of Scripture, creation, and God with the masses of people.

THE COVERING OF THE SEED: FREEMASONRY / THE MYSTERY SYSTEMS

In some cases secrecy can be seen as the initial and beginning stage in the development and teaching of knowledge. Therefore, in a sense, the Ancient Egyptian Mystery Systems and others can be reviewed, in terms of the progression of knowledge and the mental growth of man, as serving as the covering of the seed. The Creator planted the seed of human excellence in the man, but it had to grow stage by stage. Each prophet from Adam to Jesus represented a development or stage in the long line of human progress.

Although man acquired great knowledge in his search and travels, he had not yet reached his fulfillment and destiny until the advent of Prophet Muhammad Ibn Abdullah. Therefore, as with the pyramid, there are four corners at the base which allude to the aspects of human nature; and they are being drawn upwards by the bright light of truth and knowledge, symbolized by the sun. Freemasonry says that Hiram Abiff, after being buried in the darkness of the earth, was raised or drawn up by Solomon, which represents the light or the sun. "Sol" refers to Solar which means "sunlight" or "sun energy". It was the light that raised Hiram Abiff. Hiram, it is said, also represents the generative/productive and active nature in the human being. He was an active builder. (See Masonry and Its Symbols). The Bible says Jesus rose on the third day and was eventually drawn up to heaven. In other words, what he represented would some day burst forth from the secret vaults and chambers of the esoteric schools of wisdom and show itself in the open world.

The Ancient Mystery Systems themselves, if examined very closely, give clues and hints that could leave one to think that some of them understood and wanted the knowledge to be shared with the masses of the people. I believe that entwined in some of their teaching is also the justification for preaching the message openly.

We must understand that many of the ancient wise masters hid their wisdom under symbols to conceal it from their enemies.

AL-ISLAM: THE BIRTH OF THE SEED

The movement and progression of knowledge, the growth and advancement of man, like the seed, must eventually reach its fulfillment, its completion, its destiny. The Prophet Muhammad was instructed to proclaim the message to the entire world of man. Prophet Muhammad was a common man. By the requirements of the secret societies, Prophet Muhammad would never have been qualified for admission. He was from the common unlearned class of people. Most of the secret societies are elites. They only allow the well-to-do, those of noble blood, into their secret fraternities. He represents a victory for the common Human being and serves as the model of human excellence.

The Holy Qur'an is called the "clear evidence". It is the open book, not the hidden book. At least one hundred verses of the Qur'an begin with "Qul" (Say). To say means to express, to make known, to declare. The Qur'an and the history of Islam tell us that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was first commanded to "read". To read is to learn. He was later told to proclaim, to teach what he had learnt. ALLAH says, "He taught the Qur'an; then created man". It is the teaching of the precious knowledge that gives birth or creates the mind of man. Some of the verses that begin with "Qul" (Say) are: Ikhlas: "Say: He is ALLAH The One and Only...."; Falaq: "Say: I seek refuge with the Lord of the Dawn..."; Nas: "Say: I seek refuge with the Lord and Cherisher of Mankind..."; Kahf (The Cave): "Say: If the ocean were Ink..." also, "Say: I am but a man like yourself, (but) the inspiration has come to me that your Lord is one ALLAH" and, "Say: 'The Truth is from your Lord: Let him who will believe and let him who will, reject it!...".

In the Chapter Bani Isra-il (The Children of Israel): "Say: Everyone acts according to his own disposition..." (Ayat 84); "Say: If the whole of mankind and Jinns were to gather together to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof, even if they backed up each other with help and support." (A. 88); "Say: If there was on earth angles..." (A. 95); "Say: Enough is ALLAH for a witness between me and you... (A. 96); "Say: If ye had control of the Treasurer of the Mercy of my Lord... "(A. 100); "Say: Call upon ALLAH or call upon Rahman..." (A. 110); "Say: 'Praise be to ALLAH who begets no son...." (A. 111).

The Religion of Islam, therefore, can be seen as representing the unfolding and the bursting forth or the seed or the inherent destiny of man, from the darkness of secrecy into the bright light of truth. The Qur'an is also called the "Light" (Al-Nur), and "The Truth" or "Sure Reality" (Al-Haqqa). As we have explained in other sections, the Light draws. The Qur'an, like the light of the sun draws the seed upward, so does the light draw the minds of men from the dark quarters of ignorance. It was the Qur'an, The Light (Al-Nur), that drew or raised the pagan Arabs from their low state of existence to a dignified plane of existence, endowed them with science and refined culture. The Qur'an united the pagan Arabs into a unified community of faithful, fearless believers in the One God, ALLAH, the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

It was the light of the Qur'an that remotivated and regenerated the Africans. Dr. Edward Blyden, in his book Christianity, Islam, and the Negro Race writes, "After the first conquest of the Muslims in North Africa, their religion advanced southwards into the continent, not by arms, but by schools, books and Mosques. They could not have brought a force sufficient to subjugate the people, for they had to deal with large, powerful and energetic tribes... No religion existing so powerfully holds sway over 200 million people of all races and climate for more than a thousand years which appealed chiefly to the lower passion... as Mohammodanism and learning to the Negro were coeval...No sooner was he taught to read, than the importance of knowledge was imparted to him" (pg. 28). It is reported that the Holy Prophet

Muhammad said, "It is better to teach knowledge one hour of the night than it is to pray all night."

The light of Al-Islam, the Qur'an, shined into Africa, Europe, Asia and started the wheels of science and civilization spinning. In Africa, it complemented the many achievements that the Africans had made. J.A. Rogers explains: "With the rise of Islam, the influence of Africans in the Middle East became a more noticeable feature of the religion and cultural transition in this part of the world." (World's Great Men of Color pg. 24).

Imam W. D. Muhammad explains in the book An African-American Genesis, "Emphasis is not being placed on the fact that they (The Africans) have centuries of history as scientists, and this was even before the time of Prophet Muhammad. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came with the religion of Al-Islam and brought about a renaissance of interest in science. He not only wakened and quickened the intellect of the West (Europe), but he also touched the black man's mind in Africa and brought him back to his scientific pursuits. You can read of the results in the history of Mali, Timbuktu, Ghana, and many other African nations. In studying the true history of Africa, you will learn of the glorious past of Al-Islam as it relates to us before we were brought here to America...Muslims must also understand that though we have heard of Al-Islam in the West, for the most part it has been incorrectly presented.... Al-Islam made possible the regeneration of scientific interest and scientific progress for the whole world."

In discussing the Islamic destiny of man I would like to emphasize that the Religion of Al-Islam is not just for Blacks or just for Arabians. No one has a monopoly on the Qur'an and the religion of Islam. This religion is for all of humanity. It is the destiny of humanity. This is not to say that each and every human being will become a conscious Muslim. There are over one billion Muslims on this earth and the numbers are constantly growing. Turkey is almost 100 percent Muslim. There are also many Muslims in Yugoslavia, Albanian, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Europe and Eurasia. Practically all of the people of Indonesia are Muslims. There are

over 160 million Muslims in India. There are many Muslims in China. Muslims are practically all over this earth.

Through the guidance of the Qur'an Muslims have made major contributions to the world. Dr. M. Hamidullah points out in his book, Introduction to Islam , many are the contributions that Muslims made to the sciences and arts. He states, "Islam is a comprehensive concept of life and not merely a religion discussing the relations between man and his creator." He explains how Muslims contributed in the area of Astronomy. He writes, "The discovery and study of a number of stars is acknowledged to be a valuable and unforgettable contribution to the Muslims." Referring to medical science, he writes, "Medicine also made extraordinary progress under the Muslims, in the branches of anatomy, pharmacology, organization of hospitals, and training of doctors, who were subjected to an examination before being authorized to start practice." (pg. 190, 191).

The urge in man for completion and fulfillment was typified in Prophet Muhammad. The secrets were revealed with the coming of Islam. Those great truths that were concealed in Egypt, Jerusalem and other parts of the world were revealed to Prophet Muhammad and are summarized in the Qur'an. The Qur'an contains the ancient wisdom of the past and it also gives guidance for today and tomorrow. ALLAH revealed the great truths, the so-called higher sciences, to a common mortal man. This speaks to the excellence of human nature. It shows that God does not have to die on a cross in order to save humanity. History tells us that Prophet Muhammad was not a "big shot", he was not one of the well-to-do. Nevertheless, ALLAH chose him as the example model human being. According to the words of the Qur'an, if ALLAH had revealed the Qur'an on a mountain, it would have crumbled. Muhammad's heart was firm and faithful enough to carry the weight of the Qur'an. He "revealed it upon his heart."

Islam gives man an orientation, a focus, a direction for his life. Al-Islam establishes regularity in the life of man. The five pillars give him support and direction.

CHAPTER X

WHICH WAY ARE YOU TRAVELLING?

Masons generally answer this question by saying "From west to east in search of light and that which was lost." It suggests a focus or orientation. It is extremely important to know where you are going. The traveller has to first decide where he is going and then how is he going to get there. Will he walk, or will he ride? ALLAH tells the Muslim to travel, to search. He gives us a direction in which to travel. Our orientation, our Qibla, is towards the Sacred House in Mecca. ALLAH says in the Qur'an concerning traveling, "*Say: Travel through the earth and see what was the end of those who rejected Truth.*" (6:11).

Travelling is usually associated with seeking knowledge. It is reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad said, "Seek wisdom from cradle to grave" and, "Travel even unto China in search of knowledge." The Holy Qur'an states, "*Do they not travel through the land, so that their hearts (and mind) may learn wisdom and their ears may hear*"? (22:46). The Prophet Muhammad said, "Knowledge is the lost property of the believer". The Qur'an states, "*Say, Travel through the earth and see how ALLAH did originate creation...*" (29 :20). The Muslim is travelling in search of knowledge and he turns in the direction of the Kaaba. The Muslim does not only travel East, he travels in all directions; ALLAH says in the Qur'an "*Turn from wherever you are, in the direction of the Sacred House*" which was built by Abraham and his son Ismail.

I have observed through my research that there are some aspects of Freemasonry that point in the direction of the Islamic destiny. I have also found that there are many, many aspects of

Freemasonry that are diametrically opposed to everything that the Religion of Al-Islam stands for. Islam forbids drinking of alcohol; Masonry tolerates it. Islam, the Qur'an, condemns secrecy, it forbids the hoarding of truth and knowledge from the masses of people. Al-Islam speaks very strongly against those who take it for a joke. The Qur'an says, "*ALLAH (GOD) will throw back their mockery on them, and give them rope in their trespasses; so they will wander like blind ones (To and Fro).*" (2:15).

Although there are Masons I know who have great respect for the Islamic religion, the system from which they have adopted much of their language includes statements and pranks that are totally offensive to any Muslim. Islam teaches that all men are qualified to receive the knowledge; and that the Creator blesses whom He pleases when He pleases. Masonry believes that only certain people are worthy to receive the knowledge. Islam teaches the oneness of humanity and has demonstrated it for fourteen centuries. Modern Masonry claims a universal brotherhood but excludes at least 90 percent of the population. Modern Masonry is actually racist; the White Masons still consider the Prince Hall Masons clandestine. Never have the Caucasian Masons ever met a group of African-Americans on the square and upon the level. The level symbolizes equality. African-Americans are still fighting for justice and equality in housing, education, business etc. For the most part, Freemasonry is un-Islamic. No Muslim can truly justify taking the Masonic death oath and become a member of the Masonic Order. The Qur'an practically condemns it from cover to cover; I am talking about the system not the individual.

Now let us examine some of the teachings of Masonry from another standpoint. Freemasonry has been defined as "a system of morality veiled in allegory." If there is any compatibility between Freemasonry and Al-Islam, it is at the level of the Shrines; although Freemasonry's emphasizes on seeking knowledge, light and wisdom throughout each degree, is by far its most positive injunction. Muslims can appreciate and respect that because, as already stated, we are commanded to do the same.

THE SHRINERS

There are basically two independent Shriner's Orders in this country. One is predominantly White, and the other is predominantly Black or African-American. The name of the White or Caucasian group is *The Ancient Arabic Order Of The Noble Of The Mystic Shrine*. The name of the African-American group is *The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine*. Both have their own accounts of when the organization got started in America. For our purposes, when I refer to the Shriners I will be referring to both groups.

In order to become a Shriner one has to be a thirty second degree Mason, or a Knight's Templar. Once a Mason reaches this point he can then apply for admission into the "Mystic Shrine." One may ask, why does he have to be a thirty second degree Mason, or a Knights Templar? The thirty second degree (called Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret) is basically a military degree, and it is the summation of the previous degrees. The reader should keep in mind that those who become Shriners are exposed more directly to the teachings of the Islamic religion. In fact, the Mystic Shrine refers to the Kaaba that is located in Mecca.

The thirty second degree gives the Mason some preparation and knowledge that is found in the Shrine House. For example, in the lodge room for the meetings of the thirty second degree Masons, there must be in the East a throne with the seven steps. Once someone becomes a Shriner he learns that Prophet Muhammad ascended to the seventh heaven and received the light. As a thirty second degree Mason he learns to give a sign that is characteristic of the Muslim. This sign is made by placing the right hand open upon the heart. Muslims, when they greet one another, usually place their right hand upon the heart. This represents sincerity and pure intention. It is also the belief of the Muslim, as stated in the Holy Qur'an, that ALLAH revealed the Qur'an upon the Prophet's heart.

In the 32nd degree the number five is highlighted. There are *five* knocks. The Mason in this degree makes *five* steps, starting alternately with right and left foot, bringing the feet together at each step. As a Shriner he will learn that in the religion of Islam there are *five* basic pillars (Belief in one God, Prayer, Charity, Fasting, and Hajj); and *five* daily prayers.

The 32nd degree Mason is taught how to use the sword. The sword is said to be a symbol of charity, persuasion and intelligent logic. As a Shriner he will learn of some of the battles that Prophet Muhammad and his followers had with the enemies of Islam (i.e. the Battle of Badr, Uhud and Trenches). In fact, one of the emblems of the Shriners is a sword. These are some of the reasons why he has to be a thirty second degree Mason before he can become a Shriner. A brief look at the history of the Knights Templars will explain why the Knights Templar can join the Shriners organization.

THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

The Templars were a group of Christian warriors who fought with the Muslims over Palestine around the second crusades. This Order was established in the year 1118 by Hugh De Paynes Godfrey De St. Aldemas, and seven other men, at a time when the European Christians ruled Jerusalem. It is reported that it (the Order) was founded for the purpose of protecting Christian pilgrims who were travelling to Jerusalem. The name Templar is derived from the fact that this group of Knights held their meetings near the site were the Temple of Solomon stood. While they were in Jerusalem, history tells us, that they frequently communicated with some of the Muslims and secret societies which existed in the East at that time.

Mackey, Singleton and Hughan explain that it was through the interaction with the Knight Templars that much of the knowledge of the East reached Europe, and is reflected in the higher degrees of Masonry. "... From them (the Muslims) they derived certain

doctrines which they (The Knights Templars) incorporated into their own Order and introduced into Europe on their return, making them the basis of a system which resulted, if not in the creation of the entire Masonic institution, at least in the invention of the higher degrees."

It seems appropriate that a Knight Templar should be eligible to become a Shriner, since he has already received some knowledge of Islam. The Knight Templars degree is essentially a Christian degree. The Grand Hailing Sign is given by forming a cross. The right foot is crossed over the left, the arms are extended and the head is slightly turned to the right.

CHAPTER XI

WHAT THE SHRINERS LEARN

The Shriners Order attempts to combine some of the teachings of Christianity with the teachings of Islam. The Shriners Ritual states, "Our alliance or the rite of our Mystic Shrine, is ancient, honorable, benevolent and secret. It is devoted to the cause of justice, truth and mercy. It is as ancient as the cornerstone of Mohammed's Temple at Mecca, as secret as the Moslem vow that bound the tribe of Arabia to ALLAH or their God; as honorable as the Christian; and the tenets to which it is dedicated when assumed cannot be eschewed or cast aloof." Although the Shriners attempt to combine both religions, their teaching is predominantly based on the history of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings of Islam and the symbolism of the Kaaba and the Hajj.

Shriners are taught some of the attributes of ALLAH and take on Islamic names for themselves and their meeting places. For example, in New York one of the Shriners' Temple is called Mecca; In Chicago, Illinois it is called Medinah; in Cleveland, Ohio, Al-Koran Mosque; in Davenport, Iowa, Kaaba; Detroit, Michigan, Moslem; in Denver Colorado, El Jebel; in Newark and Livingston, New Jersey, Salaam; Eric, Pennsylvania, Zem Zem. They learn about the Holy Qur'an, Salat (prayer), Makka, the Kaaba, The Black Stone, et cetera.

THE ALTAR

The Altar is covered with a black cloth, with the Bible, the Holy Qur'an and a black stone upon it. There is also two swords on the altar. They are later arranged so that the Bible is placed in front of the Qur'an.

OFFICERS

Some of the titles of the officers of the Mystic Shrine are:

Imperial Potentate
Imperial Chief Rabban
Imperial high Priest and Prophet
Imperial Treasurer
Imperial Orator
Captain of the Guard
Guard
Imperial Deputy Potentate
Assistant Rabban
Oriental Guide
Imperial Recorder
Imperial Lecturer
Outer

The titles of the officers may differ slightly between the Black Shriners and the White Shriners.

AL-FATIHA (THE OPENING PRAYER)

The Shriners meetings are opened like the Muslims' meetings with Al-Fatiha, which the Shriners call the *victory ceremony*. For those who may not be familiar with this prayer, it is the first chapter of the Holy Qur'an and it consists of seven verses, which are the essence of the Book. It reads:

1. With the name of ALLAH Most Gracious, Most Merciful
2. Praise be to ALLAH The Cherisher and Sustainer of the Worlds;
3. Most Gracious, Most Merciful;
4. Master of the Day of Judgement
5. Thee do we worship and Thine aid we seek.
6. Show us the straight way,
7. The way of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy Grace, Those whose (portion) is not wrath, and who go not astray.

This prayer speaks of the mercy, the power and the grace of God. The reader should bear in mind that many of the Presidents, Vice Presidents, Congressmen, Judges, Lawyers, et cetera are/were Shriners. Many of the African-American leaders are Shriners. Many of the leaders of the so-called free world are Shriners. This means that they are at least familiar with the essence of the Qur'an and the Islamic religion.

THE BOOK OF SEVEN SEALS

This prayer is called the opening, Al-Fatiha. It is the opening of the seven seals. The Bible says the book was sealed and that it was taken to several men to see if they could open the book of seven seals: "*And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals there of'? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*" (Revelation 5:1-4). In Isaiah it reads, "*And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying Read this, I pray thee. And he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned...and in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness*" (Isaiah 29: 11, 12, 18).

History tells us that Prophet Muhammad was commanded to read three times and on the third time he read. The first revelation he received was for him to read. The Holy Qur'an says, "*Read in the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, who created - created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: Read! And thy Lord is Most Bountiful; He who taught the use of the Pen; Taught man that which he knew not*". (96:1-5). Prophet Muhammad was found worthy to read or proclaim the guidance and wisdom of ALLAH.

In the Bible, John the Revelator says he wept much because no one was found to open and read the book. With the coming of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he must have stopped weeping because the Hadith reports that during Muhammad's Ascension to the seventh heaven he met Jesus and John the Baptist, and he was not weeping. In fact, he bestowed the peace and blessing of Allah upon the Prophet Muhammad.

THE BOOK OF JOB

In the Shriners' meetings the Holy Qur'an is opened to the 38th chapter and the Bible is opened to 1st chapter of the Book of Job. The Shriner learns of Job, patience and endurance under trying circumstances. The Qur'an states, "*Commemorate Our Servant Job. Behold he cried to his Lord: "The Evil One has afflicted me with distress and suffering!"..... Truly we found Him full of patience and constancy. How excellent in Our service! Ever did he turn (to us)!*" (38:41,44). The Bible tells us that after all of Job's suffering and losses he still held fast to his faith. It states, "*Then Job arose and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped. And said, Naked come I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*"

THE SHRINERS' PASSWORDS

Mecca and Nemesis are the passwords of the mystic Shrines. The word Mecca is the outer password and Nemesis is the inner password. It is required of all Shriners, before entering the Temple, that they give the secret handshake or grip (regular

handshake, press thumb on middle of upper half of second finger) and the out pass (Mecca).

What does the Qur'an say about Makka? It says Makka is a place of security. It states "*By the Fig and the Olive and the Mount of Sinai, and this city (mecca) of security, we have indeed created man in the best mould...*" (95:4). The Qur'an says Prophet Muhammad was a free man in the city of Makka: "*I do call to witness this city; and thou art a freeman of this city; and (the mystic ties of) Parent and child; Verily We have created man into toil and struggle.*" (90:I-5). ALLAH says that Makka, which was also known as Bakka, is the place where the first House of worship was built, "*The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka full of blessing and of guidance for all kinds of beings: In it are Signs manifest (for example) The Station of Abraham; Whoever enters it attains security; Pilgrimage thereto is a duty men owe to ALLAH (God), - Those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, ALLAH stands not in need of any of His creatures.*" (3: 96, 97).

The Shriners' Ritual states that Makka is the City of Muhammad and is known as the capital of Shrinedom. (It should be noted that a few years ago the Shriners were thrown out of Makka, Saudi Arabia, and that the Freemasons and Shriners are prohibited in most Islamic countries. Syria, Libya, the Gulf Emirates, Iran and Iraq also condemn and prohibit Freemasonry and Shrinedom. Freemasonry is allowed in Turkey). Muhammad chose this city (Makka) as its capital because it is where the Benee Kinana had formed a settlement around the Kaaba, the sanctuary of a number of confederate tribes belonging to the district.

The Shriners' Ritual also explains that "The feast annually observed in the days before the full moon of the month Dhul - Hijja at Mecca presented strong attraction for all inhabitants in the vicinity round about. Thus Mecca grew into a great meeting place... Long before Muhammad, Mecca was considered a sacred city because of the holy sanctuary in its center." It is reported that Prophet Muhammad said of Mecca, "My people will always be safe in this

world and the next as long as they respect Makka." It is also called the "Mother of Cities".

The other password Nemesis refers to "the Daughter of Night." The Noble's Quiz book states "It is a Greek personification of retribution justice and teaches Nobles that retribution will overtake those who do not live up to their obligations."

THE WELL OF ZEM ZEM

The Nobles of the Mystic Shrine learn about the well of Zem Zem, and in their initiation rites they drink and cleanse themselves from a mock well. The Shriner's ritual explains that this well is located where Hagar, "when she was expelled from the tents of Abraham through the instigation of Sarah, decided to die." It goes on to explain that she wandered over the desert until she reached the "stony valley of Mecca." Near death from thirst, she flung herself on the ground and pushed her baby under a thorny acacia. The Ritual claims she said, "Let me not see the death of my child." At that point an angel appeared and showed Hagar that she was within walking distance of a well. It states, "This Zem Zem is the same identical well, so called because of the bubbling sound it made when Hagar found it." If we are to believe the Book of Genesis, it is probably one of the oldest existing wells of the world. The Bible states that God said, "*Arise lift up the lad (Ismail) and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water* ." (Genesis 21: 18,19).

Islamic history informs us that Hagar ran to and fro seven times between two hills, Safa and Marwa, desperately seeking water for her and her son. When she returned to her son she found water at his feet. He had scratched the surface of the earth with his foot which uncovered a water fountain. During the Hajj (Pilgrimage) to Makka the Muslim repeats this act. The Holy Qur'an says, "*Behold! Safa and Marwa are among the symbols of ALLAH. So if those who visit The House in the season or at other times, should compass them round, It is no sin in them. And if any one obeyeth*

his own impulse to good, be sure that ALLAH is He who recogniseth and knoweth. Those who conceal the clear (signs) We have sent down, and the Guidance, after We have made it clear for the People in the Book, - on them shall be ALLAH'S curse, and the curse of those entitled to curse." (H.Q. 2:158,159).

In the above verse ALLAH clearly condemns those who conceal his sacred symbols and his great truths. This, my brother, is one of the reasons why a Muslim really cannot be a Mason, Shriner and Muslim at the same time. This, my brother, is why Shrinedom and Freemasonry is condemned by most Muslims. In the next verse the Qur'an states, "*Except those who repent and make amends and Openly declare the Truth: To them I turn; For I am oft returning, Most Merciful.*' (2:160).

THE KAABA

The Shriners learn the importance of the Kaaba in Islam. In fact, the "Mystic Shrine" refers to the Kaaba, which is the Holy Shrine of Islam. The Shriners' Ritual states, "The Kaaba is the focal point of Islam toward which Moslem all over the world turn five times a day to pray." It points out that the Kaaba is a windowless building made of grey stone, forty feet high. "The Kaaba has been an object of worship since the dawn of history..." The Kaaba is not an object of worship by the Muslims. Muslims don't worship the Kaaba. We worship the Lord of the Kaaba. ALLAH revealed in the Holy Qur'an, "*Let them adore the Lord of this House.*" (106:3)

The Kaaba was built by Abraham and his son Ismail. It is the first house built for the worship of ALLAH. It has great meaning both spiritual and material. The Kaaba itself gives great symbolic and social lessons, its shape and form embodies profound wisdom for those who reflect. The Holy Qur'an states, "*Remember We made the House a place of assembly for men and a place of safety... We covenanted with Abraham and Ismail that they should sanctify my House for those who compass it round, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostate themselves (therein in prayer)...*" (2:125). "*And*

remember Abraham and Ismail raised the foundations of the House (with this prayer): "Our Lord! accept (this service) from us: For Thou art the All-Hearing, the All - Knowing." (2 :127).

The Qur'an also states, "*Behold we gave the site to Abraham of the (Sacred) House, (Saying) "Associate not anything (in worship) with me...* " (22:26) "...circumambulate the Ancient House" (22 :29).

THE BLACK STONE

Concerning the Black Stone the Shriner's wisdom asserts that "Tradition states that the original stone came from Paradise and handed by the Angel Gabriel to Abraham and Ismail when they were building the Kaaba." The Shriner's Ritual exclaims: "Some of you may ask, Why do we use the Black Stone, and why is it so sacred to us?" It explains that in ancient times the Sacred Stone held a place of great honor. The Black Rock of Mecca is still an object of Mohammedan veneration. "And because this Black Stone was a present from Heaven, it has been revered by Shrinedom to this day".

It should be noted here that the Shriners' ritual and initiation pertaining to the "Kissing of the Black Stone", is ridiculous, offensive, and disgraceful. It is a direct mockery of that solemn tradition in the life of Muslims. Although, as the ritual clearly states, "The events or acts of our initiation, which to you may have seemed a bit "horse-play", were given to either impress you with the ritual or teach you a lesson that will prove beneficial in later life". It is still in itself a mockery of something that Muslims hold reverent. I suggest that it be removed from the ceremony. I am sure there is a better way to teach the initiate than to make an association of kissing the Black Stone with "kissing someone's 'hind parts'".

The Holy Qur'an says, "O ye who believe! take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport." In Surah 2 ayat 15 (2:15) it states, "*ALLAH will throw back*

their mockery on them and give them rope in their trespasses; so they will wander like blind ones (to and fro)." ALLAH says, *"Know they not that ALLAH knoweth what they conceal and what they reveal?"* (2 : 77).

In Islam kissing the Black Stone is not a requirement of the Hajj. Muslims kiss, touch, or salute the stone in remembrance of an event that occurred in the life of Muhammad and the leaders of the Tribes in Makka. The leaders were at odds over which one should place the stone in the Kaaba. Muhammad settled the dispute by suggesting that the stone be placed on a cloth, and each leader held a piece of the cloth to help carry the stone to the Kaaba. Hammudah Abdalati gives an excellent view of the significance of the the Black Stone. He writes, "Muslims go to Mecca in glory of God, not to kiss a stone or worship a man or a semi-divinity. Kissing or touching the Black Stone at the Kaaba is an optional action, not an obligation or a prescription... They kiss or touch or point to the stone only as a token of respect, or a symbol of love for Prophet Muhammad, who laid the Stone at the foundation of the Kaaba when it was reconstructed." (Islam In Focus page 100).

THE SHRINER'S GREETING

The Shriners greet one another the same as the Muslims greet one another: As-Salaam-Alaikum (Peace be unto you) Wa-Alaikum-As-Salaam (unto you be peace). The Shriner's Ritual states, "The salutation of distinction among the faithful is: "Es Salmu Aleikum! - Peace be with you!" To which is returned the gracious wish: "Aleikum es Salaam! - with you be peace!" The Qur'an says that the companions of paradise will be greeted. "As-Salaam-Alaikum" (7:46).

One of the meanings of the word Islam is peace. The Qur'an tells the Muslims that he should even wish peace (Salaam) for those who may approach them in ignorance. It also says, "...say not to anyone who offers you a salutation (salaama), thou art none of a Believer." (4:94). This should make the Muslim realize just how

important it is to give the Salaams to one another. Surely if we must say "Peace" to those who we are not sure are Muslims, we should give it to one another. The Holy Prophet Muhammad said, "Those who are nearest to ALLAH are they who are first to give a salutation."

THE KORAN (QUR'AN)

Aside from the spelling of the word Qur'an, the Shriners use the same Qur'an, Holy Book of the Muslims. For the most part they only use or adhere to certain aspects of the Qur'an. But the Qur'an is there. That is very significant in itself. Their oath is taken upon the Qur'an and the Bible. Yes! Many of the Leaders of America have taken their oath upon the Qur'an and are quite familiar with it. The Shriner's Ritual states, "The Arabian or Muhammad Bible according to Muhammad (the praised), the Koran was presented to him by the Angel Gabriel in a solitary cave near the city of Mecca."

The following are definitions and descriptions of the Qur'an given by Allah in the Qur'an itself:

The Qur'an states, "*The revelation of the Book is from ALLAH, The Exalted in Power Full of Wisdom*" (46:2). "*Do they not then earnestly seek to understand the Qur'an, or are their hearts locked up by them?*" (47:26). "*Alif Lam Ta. These are the ayats (verses) of the Book of Wisdom*" (10:1). "*Alif-Lam-Ra. These are the ayats of Revelation, - of a Qur'an that makes things clear.*" (15: 1). "*We have not sent down the Qur'an to thee to be (an occasion) for thy distress, but only as an admonition to those who fear (ALLAH).*" (20:2). "*Praise be to ALLAH, Who hath sent to His Servant The Book, and hath allowed therein no crookedness: (He hath made it) straight and clear...*" (18:1, 2). "*...And recite the Qur'an in slow measured rhythmic tones.*" (73:4). "*...These are verses of the Wise Book.*" (31:2). "*...and indeed it is a book of exalted power. No falsehood can approach it from before, or behind it: It is sent down by One full of Wisdom, worthy of all*

Praise" (41:41, 42). "*If there was a Qur'an with which mountains were moved or the earth were cloven asunder or the dead were made to speak, (This would be the one!)*" (13:31). "*We have sent down (stage by stage) in the Qur'an that which is a healing and mercy to those who believe: To the unjust it causes nothing but loss after loss.*" (17:82).

It is reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad said, "One who is proficient in the Qur'an is associated with the noble, upright, recording angels; and he who falters in it, and finds it difficult for him, will have a double reward." (Muslim). The Shriners' Ritual explains: "The Koran is the unique history of our founder Mohammed. The work is absolutely unique in its origin and in its preservation, upon the authenticity of which no one has ever been able to cast a serious doubt."

ALLAH: THE TRUE NAME OF GOD

The Shriners, like the Muslims, refer to the Creator by the name ALLAH, which is His proper name. Prior to becoming a Shriner, the Masons learn the various attributes of the Creator. He is most often referred to by the Freemasons as the Grand Architect of the Universe. The Shriners' Ritual states, "... Be true to your trust, faithful to the cause and active in the uplift of mankind that ALLAH may delight to extend His blessings upon you and yours forevermore.... hence our whole ritualistic system is based upon these kindly attributes together with an unflinching faith in ALLAH." The Shriner's oath ends with these words, "May ALLAH, the God of Arabs, Moslem and Mohammed, and the God of our fathers support me to the entire fulfillment of the same."

The Shriners' meetings open with, "Praise be to ALLAH, Lord of the Creation, the Compassionate, The Merciful. The Holy Qur'an says "Proclaim! (or read!) In the name of ALLAH." (96:1). The Qur'an also says, "*The most beautiful names belong to ALLAH: so call on Him by them.*" in Arabic "ALLAH" is an unalterable proper noun. It is not masculine, feminine or plural.

The Qur'an says, "*Say: He is ALLAH, The One and Only.*" (112:1). "*To ALLAH belongeth the mystery of the heavens and the earth.*" (16: 77).

PROPHET MUHAMMAD

We find that in the Shriners' meetings and ceremonies they learn and exclaim parts of the Muslim call to prayer (ADHAN). They use such terms as ALLAHU-AKBAR (ALLAH is Greater); Al-Hamdu-lillaahi (Praise be to ALLAH); Ash shadu an la ilaha illa ALLAH (I bear witness that there is no god but ALLAH); Hayya Ala-s-Salah (come to prayer); Hayya 'Ala-l-falah (come to success). The Shriners learn certain aspects of the Prophet's life and mission. My research does not reveal that any direct declaration of Muhammad as the Last Messenger and Prophet of ALLAH, is made by the Shriners. Only by allusion and symbolic interpretation can such a declaration be found. The Shriners' Ritual only states that he (Muhammad) is the Prophet of the Arabs: "Who is he who hath professed to have conversed in person with the Supreme and Maketh himself mightiest of the mighty? Mohammed, the Prophet of Arab's creed."

In the Noble's Quiz Book are several questions and answers pertaining to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) : "Who is known as the Prophet of Islam? ANSWER: "Mohammed." QUESTION: "What year was the Prophet born?" ANSWER: "570." QUESTION: "Who told the Prophet, in a vision, that there was only one God?" ANSWER: "The Angel Gabriel." QUESTION: "How old was the Prophet when he had this vision?" ANSWER: "Forty years old." QUESTION: "In what year did the Prophet make his flight to Medinah?" ANSWER: "A.D. 622." QUESTION: "Do Shriners worship ALLAH or accept the Mohammedan religion? ANSWER: "No, but belief in deity is one of the requirements of the Order."

CHAPTER XII

CROSSING THE BURNING SANDS

Crossing the burning sands has great historical significance, particularly as it relates to the time of the Crusades. However, our concern here is with the spiritual and symbolic connotation. "Crossing the burning sands" is a phrase that the Masons and Shriners use to allude to their struggle and initiation. It represents a test of their courage and fortitude. There is a much greater meaning also. Let us consider what sand is. Sand is earth or matter that has become so dry and granulated until it no longer has cohesiveness or adhesiveness. It is difficult to move on sands; it takes extra effort. Hot sands are even more difficult to travel on. Sand also represents instability and insecurity. The Bible says when the rain and the winds came against that house it crumbled and fell because it was not built on a stable grounds. (Math. 7: 26, 27).

The Noble's Quiz Book poses these questions: Where are the hot sands located? Why does a Noble have to travel over the hot sands? Where is the Shrine located? The answers to these questions are explained as follows: 1) On the Coast of Arabia near the Red Sea; 2) In order to worship at the Shrine; 3) In Mecca. The crossing of the burning sands alludes to the Hajj and fasting during the Holy Month of Ramadan. What the Masons and Shriners need to understand is that this Hajj not only represents struggle but it highlights the oneness of humanity. It teaches man to sacrifice his selfish private appetite. The Hajj is an event that is carried out in the open not in secret. Understand Noble, where you are traveling!

The Shriners have a way of testing one another to determine if one should be recognized as a Noble or not. The dialogue goes like this: QUESTION: "Are you a Noble of the Mystic Shrine?" ANSWER: "I have travelled the Arabic Path." QUESTION: "You are a Noble, then, I presume?" ANSWER: "I am so accepted by all men of noble birth." QUESTION: "Have you travelled any?

ANSWER: "I have." QUESTION: "From where to what place have you travelled?" ANSWER: "Travelled to east over the hot burning sands of the desert." QUESTION: "Where were you stopped at?" ANSWER: "At the Devil's pass." QUESTION: "What were you requested to do?" ANSWER: "I was requested to give a few drops of urine" QUESTION: "Why were you requested to do this?" ANSWER: "As a token of my renouncing the wiles and evils of the world, and be granted permission to worship at the shrine." QUESTION: "At what Shrine did you worship?" ANSWER: "At the Shrine of Islam." QUESTION: "Did you ride?" ANSWER: "Yes, I rode a camel, until I was caused to dismount." QUESTION: "Then what did you do with your camel?" ANSWER: "I tied him." QUESTION: "Where did you tie him?" ANSWER: "I tied him to a date tree where all true and good Shriners so do."

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SHRINERS' TEST

To travel means to seek knowledge. Travelling broadens one's scope and vision. Travelling suggests movement (physical or mental). Therefore, travelling over the sands means struggling to seek knowledge, to make movement, to broaden one's scope.

There must be a direction. What is the direction? Makka, the Kaaba. Hot sands also represent the human passions. You can not build your life just on passion and emotions. Emotions are not constant, they change like the winds. Travelling over the hot sands means getting your emotions under control, controlling the passions. In your search for knowledge and truth you have to ride above your emotions. In a since the Muslims cross the burning sands every year when they fast during Ramadan. The Muslim is tested by the heat of hunger, the heat of anger, the heat of thirst, the heat of sex, etc. In fact the Month of Ramadan used to only occur during the hot season. History tells us that the travellers would wrap the animal's feet as they crossed the hot sands, to protect them from the heat. Ramadan is associated with this event because it serves as a rapping or covering for the Muslim. The Qur'an says

fasting is designed to teach us self-control, self-restraint. (2:187). Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed. So actually it is the Qur'an that covers or protects us from the burning heat. It is the Qur'an that tells us to fast, and how to fast, and the great benefits of fasting. Brother, you do not need fake sands to teach you self-restraint, courage and fortitude---just fast during the month of Ramadan with the Muslims.

The Shriners' Test asks the question: "Did you Ride?" ANSWER: "Yes, I rode a camel until I was caused to dismount." Think about this Master Mason, Royal Arch Mason, Knight's Templar, Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, Noble of the Mystic Shrine. Think! Ponder! Reflect! The Ritual says you are travelling, seeking knowledge in a particular direction. It says you are travelling east to worship at the Shrine of Islam. It says you rode a camel part of the way, then you had to tie it and walk the rest of the way.

TIEING THE CAMEL

A camel is a very intelligent animal. It is symbolic of human intelligence. Imam W.D. Muhammad stated, "The camel is a cool (not easily excited), dignified, wise, prudent and alert animal. When it moves about it watches every side; while running it is careful to look straight ahead to be certain that its aim is straight. It knows there are few water holes in the desert so it stores up large quantities of water before travelling... When we study the nature of these animals, we see how they characteristically reflect qualities of human nature." (Prayer and Al-Islam pg. 156). The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary states, "A camel symbolizes power of endurance, strength and patient perseverance... camels are appropriately called the ships of the desert... To their ability to go long distances without nourishment, are added a lofty stature and great agility; eyes that discover minute objects at a distance..." (page 137).

"Riding the camel" means you are to approach your direction, the Kaaba, with intelligence and patience. However, there

comes a point during your travel where you have to tie your camel (intelligence) or sacrifice your camel (intelligence). The camel is one of the animals that can be sacrificed during Hajj. "Tieing the camel" means that the Hajj or "worshiping at the Shrine of Islam", is not based on our intelligence, it is based on faith and what ALLAH has prescribed. Our intelligence may tell us to make one circuit around the Kaaba. Our intelligence may say that we should sacrifice a dog or a pig during Hajj. So tieing the camel to a tree means leaving your intelligence and leaving your customs back home. It is similar to what ALLAH said to Moses when he said "take off your shoes, you are on sacred ground." This is not to say that we should not be intelligent. Men have different levels of intelligence and patience.

During the Hajj (Pilgrimage) to Mecca, all men are on the same level: the scholar, the doctor, the janitor, the painter, the maid, the teacher, the secretary are all servants before ALLAH. If they were not required to tie their camel (intelligence), put it in check, then some may think that the scholar or the doctor or the President should have some special privilege. No! they all bowed down before ALLAH. The Shriners' Test says, "Where were you stopped at? At the Devil's pass?" The Holy Qur'an says Iblis was a creature of fire. He was extremely knowledgeable. He had so much knowledge and intelligence until he became the leader of the angels. What happened? He did not tie his intelligence before ALLAH. He was proud and arrogant. He felt that his knowledge made him superior to the human being that ALLAH made. He was not willing to sacrifice that position or level of intelligence. There comes a time when we have to put our views aside and listen to others. ALLAH says it is the faithful that will receive His blessing. The Qur'an says concerning the Hajj: "*But the best of provisions is right conduct*". (2 :197).

FROM INSECURITY TO SECURITY

The Statement, "crossing the burning sands to worship at the Shrine of Islam" lets the wise thinker know that man should seek stability and security in his life. Man should establish himself in something solid and concrete. He should have social unity and family solidarity. Sands are unstable, but the Kaaba is stable. It is a place of security. ALLAH says in the Holy Qur'an, "*ALLAH made the Kaaba, The Sacred House; an asylum of security for men...* " (5:100). Crossing the burning sands to worship at the Shrine of Islam, alludes to the progression of human development. It refers to the movement from speculation to truth and reality; from speculation to operation. For the Mason it would mean from speculative masonry to operative masonry.

Freemasonry has been guessing and speculating about the true word and the ancient wisdom. Freemasonry has no concrete, definite understanding of its symbols. They have been searching, crossing the sands. That is why Freemasonry is called speculative. Many Masonic scholars agree that the true interpretations of their symbols have been lost, they have been working with a substitute. Albert Pike stated, "The Symbols and Ceremonies of Masonry have more than one meaning. They would rather conceal than disclose the truth. They hint at it only ... and their varied meanings are only to be discovered by reflection and study." (Morals and Dogma pg. 148). J. D. Buck writes, "For the greater part, modern Masons are dealing with symbols, the key for the real interpretation of which they never possessed, or even suspected that it existed." (Symbolism or Mystic Masonry pg. 30).

W.L. Wilmhurst explains, "A candidate proposing to enter Freemasonry has seldom formed any definite idea of the nature of what he is engaging in. Even after his admission he usually remains quite at a loss to explain satisfactorily what Masonry is and for what purpose his Order exists.... The most one can hope to do is to offer a few hints or clues, which those who so desire may develop for themselves in the privacy of their own thought. For in

the lost resource no one can communicate the deeper things in Masonry to another." (The Meaning of Masonry pg. 19, 21).

To speculate means to theorize, to reflect or ponder. Speculative masonry would suggest guess work. The hope and aim should be for an idea or philosophy that is not based on theory, but on concrete truth that operates in the life of man. Operative masonry means that it is concrete, it can be seen, it operates in life. Therefore, in connection with crossing the burning sands to worship at the Kaaba, which is a concrete structure and its meaning has reality in the life of man--we see a movement from speculative masonry to operative masonry. This means that the knowledge and concepts *operate* in your life. It can be concluded that the lower degrees of Masonry are based on speculation; they are the unstabled sands, whereas the shrine degree represents the dawning of the full truth, the Qur'an. The Shriners are introduced to a greater reality of truth, than those Masons who have not yet reached that degree.

If the sincere Mason and Shriner would ever take the time to really analyze what he is exposed to (The Holy Qur'an and history of the Prophet) and examine the religion of of Al-Islam, he would become a free man, and he would embrace the religion of Islam fully, because he would see that Islam is his destiny. Black people, African-Americans need to stop imitating everything that the Caucasian or White man does. African-Americans are the descendants of Africa; and history tells us that a great percentage of our ancestors were Muslims and that we had a glorious past. It was the Caucasian who came into Africa, kidnapped us, brought us to America, broke us down and tried to re-create us in the image that he wanted us to be in. Yes, he saw himself as God over the Black man.

The African-American should never, ever forget that. So, African-American Masons and Shriners, when you see in the rituals that you got from the white man, mockery and degrading statements about any religion, particularly the Islamic religion, you should feel offended because Islam represents something positive in your history. It does not matter whether you are a Muslim or Christian now; but the fact that Islam is a part of our heritage we should

respect it. Believe it or not, when the white Masons and Shriners make mockery of Islam, they are making mockery of you too brother.

Think about it! The Caucasian takes the Holy Qur'an, the teachings of Islam, the great knowledge from Africa, the pyramids, the human sciences, etc., he goes into the closet and tells us that we cannot get the knowledge. It would be foolish of us to go knocking on the closet door and asking him to let us in. Why do that? If slavery and history has taught us anything, it has taught us that we cannot put our hopes and aspirations in the Caucasian white man. Brother, *we* are the Widow's Son.

CHAPTER XIII

WHO IS THE WIDOW'S SON?

History tells us that we were Master Builders and that we were slain by Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum in the form of England, France and America. The story of Hiram Abiff, the widow's son, says he was struck in the throat with the twenty-four inch gauge, struck in the left breast with the square, and struck in the head with the setting maul. We, too, were struck in those same three places.

We were struck in the throat, which means we were robbed of our language and the ability to articulate the knowledge we once had. History reveals that even when the Caucasian slave traders packed the African into the ships, they made sure that we were from different communities, with different dialects, so that we could not communicate with one another (Hit in the throat). The African-American was struck in the left breast which means we were struck in the heart. The Caucasian slavemaster tried to kill our human love for one another. It is reported that many times the slavemaster would make the slave whip his own brother. Being struck in the left breast or heart also means cutting off our ability to properly weigh and judge the thoughts that come from our brains and mind. The heart and mind check one another. Yes! we were hit in the heart. They tried to make us cold and insensitive towards one another, so that they could draw back in their ivory towers of elitism and nobility and relax while we kill one another. "Black on Black crime" is a very serious problem for us now. It is because we were hit in the heart.

The story says Hiram was finally killed by a blow to the head. This means that we were robbed of the knowledge of God, our culture, our religion, our name, our identity. They stripped us of every thought, of every conceptualization of our past. They were content to know that they had extinguished every bit of light that we

had in our minds. The story says that Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum killed the Master Builder with the tools that he used to build the Temple. This means they used the precious knowledge that the Africans had used to advance man and society, and they twisted it and used it to destroy a whole nation of people. In other words they twisted the truth.

God said man is created with dignity and that all men stand equal before the Creator. The Caucasian slavemaster, the White supremacist, twisted that and said that African-Americans or Black people were created by Satan. They said we were cursed by God to forever serve them as lord and master. They said we were sub-human. The Ancient wise taught that black represented ignorance and evil, while white was associated with light and knowledge. The Caucasian twisted that and physicalized those mental concepts and said Black people are evil. After they killed us mentally, spiritually and physically, they threw us in the rubbish of lies, deceit, bigotry and oppression.

The Legend of Hiram Abiff says he was a widow's son. This means he had no father to look out for him and to help teach and take care of him. Widow's son means we had no leadership. We had no one to defend us in that hostile environment, we were left to seek aid only from the society. We were deprived of fatherhood; we had no protection. In that helpless state, like the legendary Hiram Abiff, we were brutally murdered by people who were dominated by greed, hatred and jealousy.

MAH-HAH-BONE

The story of the murder of the Master Builder says that when Solomon and his men approached the grave they said, "O God my Lord, was there no help for the Widow's Son." In other words, it was bad enough that he had no leadership in the world. It was bad enough that he only had the society to depend on. Now he has been murdered in such a brutal fashion. The story says Solomon said,

"Mah-Hah-Bone". This word or phrase has several meanings. Some say it means "What the Builder" or "That the Builder". Others say it means Marrow in the Bone, which is a play on "Mercy in the Bone" or "Mercy in the Heart." Any sane person who reads about the African-American's experience during slavery would have to agree that there could not have been any "mercy in the slavemasters' bones" or heart to treat the African-American the way they did. This is what Solomon was saying in that legend, "Was there any mercy in Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum's heart."

Understand Brother, it is one thing to enslave a people and deny them physical mobility. But it is a grave, criminal and barbaric act to strike a man or people in their three stages of development: in their vital organs. The Caucasian did not just deny us certain rights, he robbed us of our knowledge, he stripped us of the knowledge of the true God, ALLAH, and gave us a substitute, a pale white image of himself and told us to worship it. Our physical movement was restricted, we were placed in a shallow grave. The human being is physical, mental and spiritual. The three blows represent the death of our total being as humans.

The story says Hiram was taken from the rubbish and placed on a hill, at twelve midnight. We can understand from this that a new conscious was beginning to dawn. Twelve midnight represents the beginning of a new day. History tells us that after many many years of slavery the Caucasian slave masters freed us from physical bondage and placed us on the hill of "separate but equal" treatment. This freedom was not done out of love, but to provide labor and workers to build up the North. It was a "Northern Conspiracy." The Northern Caucasian used the ex-slaves as a buffer, to absorb the anger and frustration of the Southern white man. The Southern white man was still angry with his brother of the north. Realizing this, the Northern white man created a situation were the Southerner redirected his attention from him and focused on us. They forced us down the throat of the Southern white man.

History tells us that ten to fifteen years after slavery the North had support and placed many blacks over their ex-slave master. You may ask what was wrong with that? There was no

orientation. The white man and the black man needed an orientation period, they needed time to work out the situation. As a result, the Klu Klux Klan and other anti-black groups sprung up. The "Black Codes" were instituted in order to "keep the niggers" in their place. The Southerners rejected and opposed programs that were designed to help the ex-slaves. For example, in 1865 Congress created the Freedmen's Bureau which was designed to help ex-slaves get food, clothing and jobs. We find that between 1868 and 1877 sixteen blacks served in Congress at various times. The majority were from the south. Also, in 1871 there were two (2) black Senators, Hiram R. Revels and Blanche K. Bruce. There was even one black or African-American who served as acting Governor of Louisiana.

Imam W. D. Muhammad stated, "The north authorized former slaves to stand in authority over their former masters, the white people of the south, and didn't give them the psychology. He was a former slave, he should have been given some orientation....They received no orientation. In fact they were sensitized to make a bad job of it, to create more bad feelings between blacks and whites, to take the pressure off of the Northern white man so he could go ahead and build up the north and build up the United States while the southern white man took out his hatred and vengeance out on us."

Just like Hiram Abiff, the Widow's son was taken from the rubbish and placed on a hill; we were taken from slavery and raised a little higher than physical slavery. The legend says Hiram laid in the grave fifteen days. This means that his five senses were killed on all three levels: in his sensory body, in his rational mind and in his spiritual perception. How do we know this? Because the legend says there were originally fifteen men who plotted to kill him. Only three was actually needed because each of them had five senses. Each human has five senses in the sensory body; Jubelo killed the five senses in the rational body, and Jubelum killed the five senses on the spiritual plane.

The story says they tried to raise the Widow's son three times. This means they tried to restore him on all three levels. The first try was made with the knowledge of Boaz which represents

strength physical might. Many have tried to raise the African American people by supplying them with material resources only; Food, clothing and shelter. Some say all the Blacks need is money and a physical army and that will raise them up. The legend says they tried with the Jachin principle. This represents government or establishment. According to Freemasonry, Boaz and Jachin together allude to a promise that God made to David that "He would establish his kingdom in strength." The government, it seems, has tried to raise the African American people through government programs like welfare, food stamps, employment program etc. Time has proven that those programs, for the most part, have failed and in fact worked against the progress of African-Americans. It made many of them depend on the system .

The Legend says Hiram was finally raised by Solomon, with the "lions paw". He did not grip one knuckle, he used all five fingers to raise the Master Builder. He raised him from a dead level to a living perpendicular to the square on the five points of fellowship. Five is a circle, it represents spiritual discipline. Solomon is a play on Solar or Light. This tells us as African American people that we need the light. It is the light that will raise us. What held the Master Builder up? It was the five points of fellowship.

History tells us that it was the light of the Holy Qur'an that raised the pagan Arabs up from ignorance to a high level of civilization and it was the five pillars of Islam that supported them. That same light went into Europe and raised the savage, backwards, European up like a man. The light of the Qur'an raised the African people back up to a high plane. Even today, if one would take the time to study the history of Islam in America and its effects on those who accepted it, they would see that Al-Islam, The Holy Qur'an has been the most positive, effective influence in the life of African Americans. Although Al-Islam is for all people, it seems that black, African-Americans have been mostly attracted to it. Why, because it represents that which was lost. Their soul cries out for it. That is their Destiny. The Master Builder is being raised by the Light of the Qur'an, on the five pillars of Islam.

Understand, African-American Masons, you and your people were the ones who were cabled towed by the white slavemasters and made to cross the hot burning sands of white supremacy, lies, deceit and racism. The African-American was blindfolded, their true vision of themselves and the Creator was taken away. You were neither barefooted nor shoed. Meaning the African-American did not know where he stood in life, he didn't know if he was material or spiritual. The African-American was cut off from his sacred life connection. The Holy Qur'an and the Islamic religion is your home. Islam is our destiny. It is our protection.

THE THREE BOYS IN THE FIRERY FURNANCE

The Bible speaks of the three boys who were taken into bondage in Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar. Before they were taken into captivity their names were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Like the African-American, their names were changed by their Master. Their names were changed to Shadrach, Mushach and Abed-nego. The Bible says these boys were very intelligent and they were "skillful in wisdom and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science". The story says these boys had won the favor of the King because of their abilities and because of Daniel's great insight and abilities to interpret the higher symbols of creation. Daniel's name was changed to Belteshazzar.

One Night the King had a dream which all his wise men were unable to explain the meaning of (Daniel 2: 28-49). The Bible says the King sent for Daniel, who explained the meaning of the dream. For this, Daniel was "*made a great man... and made him a ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and Chief of the governess, over all the wise men of Babylon.*" The Bible goes on to say that Daniel looked out for his brethren Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. Daniel did not forget about his brethren, he requested of the king that they be placed over the affairs of the province of Babylon.

The day came when these boys, along with the rest of Babylon, had to pay homage to the golden calf, the god of the king Nebuchadnezzar. The Bible tells us that the three boys held fast to their belief in the All wise Creator of the heavens and the earth. They refused to bow down and worship the Golden Calf. For their refusal, they were cast into the furnace. According to the Bible the King "*commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was want to be heated.*" The next day the King returned to the furnace expecting to see the three boys burned to a crisp. Expecting to see them bowing to the fire god. The King thought, as the white racists of America thought, that the boys would have broke under the heat of mockery, bigotry, racism and oppression. But to his surprise they were standing firm as if they had not been burnt. The Bible says that the King was astonished and rose up in haste, and spoke, and said unto his counsellor, "Did not we cast three men bound into midst of the fire?"

The story says instead of seeing three, he saw four. This world of bigots and white supremacists, I am sure, are surprised to see that the African-American people have not only survived the fiery furnace of racism and rejection, but we are moving and making progress. I am sure that when they looked into the dungeon of America they were surprised to see that their ex-slaves are now calling the adhan, are now performing salat the correct way, are now perceiving ALLAH in the right way. They were surprised to see Nat Turner, Frederick Douglas, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Noble Drew Ali, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X. Shabazz. They are surprised to see the Muslims are still advancing and making progress. The heat that they placed on the Muslim community after the death of Honorable Elijah Muhammad was enough to scatter and disintegrate any living organization.

Every effort was made to keep the "outcasts" from receiving a true image of Al-Islam. They are surprised to see the Leadership of Imam Warith Deen Muhammad and the thousands of other Muslims uniting in spite of the heat of distortion and misrepresentation of the Religion of Al-Islam. The deceivers are

constantly turning up the heat on good, productive, well-meaning people. ALLAH has control of the fire. The Holy Qur'an says Abraham was placed in the fiery furnace also, and ALLAH said to the fire: "Yaa-Naaru Kuunii bardonwwa salaaman Alaa Ibraahiim." *"O Fire! Be thou cool and peaceful for Abraham!"*

CHAPTER XIV

FROM EGYPT TO MAKKA

We find that Egypt represented one thing in the progressive and productive history of man, and that Makka represented another thing. They do not necessarily represent two completely different or opposing ideas. The Masons have tried to make a connection between the symbols of Egypt and Makka. However, their first journey is into Egypt. Make note that the African-American Shriners organization is called the ***Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.*** Two of their emblems are the Crescent and the Pyramids. The white Shriners also have the Crescent and the Pyramid. Their Order is called the ***Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.***

As I have mentioned in a previous chapter, the Masons say they are travelling from West to Egypt in search of light. Although, they started in Egypt they end in Makka. That is very significant. The symbolic travel from Egypt to Makka is the same as travelling crossing the burning sands, or moving from Speculative to Operative.

Modern man can only speculate about the meaning of those great symbols and hyroglyphics of Egypt. Modern scholars and Egyptologists are still guessing about not only the wisdom that is hidden behind the signs and symbols, many of them are still wondering why the pyramids were even built. Egypt presents a challenge to those who are interested in her mysteries. Egypt was perhaps the beginning, but not the end of man's destiny, man's mental evolution. It is important that we understand that it was a stage in the developmental process of man and society, but not his destiny.

The leaders of the West, America understand that fact and it is reflected in their secret wisdom. In the words of Imam W. Deen Muhammad "The Shriners know this, the higher-ups in the Christian sciences, they know this. They know that their sciences did not come from Egypt. They are highly excited by all the mythology in Egypt. Yet, instead of accepting the human disciplines that are contained in the sciences of the oldest science in Makka, they got some insight form the Makkan occult sciences, and then they went to Egypt to decipher that symbolism with the tools of Makka. They went to Egypt to decipher the symbolism.

Egypt is referred to as the home of the mysteries and esoteric wisdom. Much of its wisdom was kept and taught in secrecy in darkness. Although Egypt had much light, most of its higher teachings were given to a select few. They had esoteric knowledge for the chosen few and exoteric knowledge (common knowledge) for the masses. Even today the wisdom of Egypt is not open or understood by the masses. It is locked up in the darkness of symbols, and hyroglyphics. Man must move from darkness to light. The Holy Qur'an says ALLAH created the darkness and the light. The Bible says God created the evening and the morning. This suggests that darkness came before light; oppression came before freedom; ignorance before knowledge.

The Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids for several reasons. The pyramids embody the concepts and ideas of the wise. Some say they were used to instruct and initiate those who were found worthy to receive the higher knowledge. Others say the pyramids represent man's growth and development and that only certain men were taken through the pyramids where they experienced certain things which were symbolic of mans growth and development. The Kaaba in Makka, however, represents something different.

FROM THE PYRAMIDS TO THE KAABA

As the pyramid reflected the private secret teachings of man, the Kaaba represents the open free expression of the knowledge for all human beings. The Kaaba is called the "Ancient House." The Kaaba symbolizes the social and family unit. A house suggests family, and the family is the essential and basic unit of any society. Therefore, the movement from the Pyramid to the Kaaba represents a growth from individualized instruction, from darkness, to human and family respect. The Kaaba represents the refinement and application of the knowledge in the life of humanity. Once the family is destroyed then the structure of society is weakened. The Ancient Egyptians in their wisdom were seeking and reaching for the destiny of man. And they left a great symbol to let us know that they had not completed the line of human progress. They left a pyramid with out a capestone. Some call it the unfinished pyramid. The destiny of man was not completed in Egypt. Muslims believe the completion came with the advent of Muhammad, who restored the human excellence. Muhammad is like the tyler who, in operative masonry, is the one who comes and places the top or roof on the building. He completes the work. Without the tyler the building would not be protected from the inclement weather. It is reported that the Prophet Muhammad said that he was the last stone in the building of society.

THE SQUARE IN A CIRCLE

The Kaaba is a square that sits in a circle. This great and ancient symbol inculcates a wealth of wisdom and ancient knowledge. The square in a circle alludes to the idea that the material conscience should be surrounded and protected by God-consciousness. Our material concern should be checked by a genuine belief in the Creator. Imam W. D. Muhammad explained, "look at the heavenly bodies...they look round...They are symbolic of the saints. They represent principles and movements in the psyche of man... The heavenly bodies, those material objects in the sky, because of their rotation, they tend to conform to spheriod shape, round shape... Since the majority conform to spheroid or

round shape, the heavenly concept is called *round* and it applies also to *spiritual* reality and spiritual concepts...

"...Man makes the square, he builds his house on the square. His first concept of graphic dimension was a right angle, a right angle which makes a square, 90 degree angle that he uses to make a square. Looking at that now, we see the Kaaba sitting there; but it is not a simple square, it is a cube. It is a square from all sides: it has a square as a base, it has a square on all its walls, and it has a square at its top. So it has squares all about it, and its angles are pretty well equal. They are supposed to be equal--symbolic of balance, material balance..... So the Muslims turn towards the Kaaba, which is a four-sided figure. He turns toward the Kaaba to orientate his whole life on the principle of what his life naturally calls for. And his life naturally calls for material insight, material growth. The material insight and material growth will bring him into rational growth...

"...if you orientate yourself towards the Kaaba and understand what that symbol means, it is telling us that we must stay in touch with our essential life. Now, the Kaaba itself is in a circle. We make seven circles around the Kaaba, symbolic of ethics. ALLAH wants us to evolve ethics on the bases of what is materially needed in man's life." (Imam W. Deen Muhammad Speaks from Harlem N.Y. pg. 55, 69).

In the fifth degree (Perfect Master's) of Masonry we find mention of the meaning of the circle and square: "With what tools did you work?" ANSWER: "The graduated compass..." QUESTION: "By what science did you use this instrument?" ANSWER: "By the science of the circle and square." QUESTION: "What circle?" ANSWER: "A sane mind." QUESTION: "What is the square?" ANSWER: "A sane body."

The Kaaba, a square in the circle, represents the union of the material and the spiritual. It represents a reunion of that which was disconnected.

This world has disconnected the spiritual and material concerns. They placed one on the right and one on the left. The Bible says there shall be water in the desert (Isaiah 43:19). This means hope shall come to the desert. Muslims are obligated to turn towards the Kaaba, in the desert. Shriners say they turn in that direction also. The Kaaba is a simple structure. It does not house any furniture, although at one time idols were placed in it. The word Kaaba has several meaning. One of its meanings is "connection." The social life is made up of important connections. It begins with the union of man and woman or husband and wife. Then it evolves or expands to connect parents and children. From that simple social life evolves the more complex social and community life. By turning or travelling towards that Sacred House, we are reminded of the beginning of man and the life that ALLAH (GOD) intended for man. ALLAH (GOD) did not intend for man to live by himself. He intended for us to live in a situation with others, and that we live in accord with the best motivation possible for us.

The Kaaba, as a symbol, represents something that we should keep with us all the time: a sacred sanctuary within. It represents the great respect that we should have for our human nature. It alludes to the inherent worth and goodness in man; a belief in the destiny of man as a social creation. Unlike the secret mystery schools, the Kaaba symbolizes the belief in the dignity of man as an honorable social creature. In the Kaaba there is a Black Stone, which represents the blackness or richness of human nature. According to history when the Prophet Muhammad defeated his enemies and returned to Makka, he told Bilal to go on top of the Kaaba and make the call to prayer. This lets us know that although we should have great respect for our human nature and life, we should always remember that ALLAH (GOD) is greater. The remembrance of God should be foremost in our minds and heart. The Prophet Muhammad was directed by ALLAH to turn his attention or focus to the Kaaba. The Holy Qur'an says, "*We see thee turning of thy face (for guidance) to the heavens: now shall we turn thee to a Qibla that shall please thee. Turn then thy face in the direction of the sacred Mosque: Where ever ye are, turn your faces in that direction. The*

people of the Book know well that that is the truth from their lord. Nor is ALLAH unmindful of what they do." (2 :144).

The Scripture says that Abraham left Egypt and went to MAKKA, and he and his son Ismail built the Kaaba. The Holy Qur'an says the Prophet Muhammad's mission is after the order of Abraham. (16:123). Just as Abraham was directed to Makka and instructed to build the Kaaba, the Prophet Muhammad was directed to turn to Makka where he later cleansed it of the idols. The Qur'an says the Kaaba gives protection in the winter and the summer. Winter and summer represents two extremes of life. The Qur'an also says it is a protection from hunger and fear. Hunger drives us to satisfy our appetite. Human beings have a hunger for several things not just for food. Some people have a hunger for knowledge, others have a hunger for money. Extreme hunger can cause us to lose consciousness of other important things. A person can have a compulsion for money to such an extent that he loses sight on his social or moral responsibilities. So the Kaaba protects us against that. It protects us against the fear of men and the fear of losing those perishable things that we may put all of our hopes in.

CHAPTER XV

FROM SQUARE TO COMPASS: FROM BIBLE TO QUR'AN

In the 32nd degree of Masonry we find these words: "I have passed from the square to the compass." We have explained that the square is symbolic of the physical, and the compass or circle represents the spiritual. Moving from the square to the compass means *raising above or gaining control of ones physical appetites and desires.*

Some people are only concerned with material things. The wise person seeks higher things. The square is represented by the number four (4), and the circle by the number five (5). As we have mentioned, the 32nd degree Mason can become a Shriner, and as a Shriner he learns about the square in a circle, the Kaaba.

Passing from the square to the compass (or the circle because the compass is used to draw circles not squares) represents the growth from the Bible to the Qur'an. More specifically it alludes to the progressive movement from the four books of the New Testament to the Qur'an. The Bible (New Testament) represents the Square. The *four* books symbolize the square or material. The Bible says Jesus was crucified on a cross, which points in *four* directions. The Bible says Jesus was buried in the material earth. After Jesus and the Bible, came Muhammad and the Qur'an. The Prophet Muhammad received *five* ayats. The first revelation of the Qur'an consisted of *five* ayats. The revelation came from the highest authority, ALLAH, the Creator. Symbolically it would represent the circle or spiritual consciousness. The circle alludes to God-consciousness, what is called in Islam, Taqwa. The Qur'an establish *five*. There are *five* obligatory prayers. The prayers must be made

five times a day. There are *five* pillars of Islam. The human being has *five* senses.

Therefore, moving from the square to the compass hints at the stage of development from the four to the five; from the Bible (New Testament) to the Qur'an. This is reflected in the Shrine House. Before the Mason becomes a Shriner he sees on the alter a square and a compass; but once he becomes a Shriner he does not see that on the alter. It is replaced by the Bible and the Qur'an. Why? Because it represents the same thing more intensified. In the Shriners meetings the Bible and Qur'an are used instead of the square and the compass. Just as the compass and square are rearranged, the Bible and Qur'an are rearranged also. In the lower degrees the compass is under the square; then it is later rearranged so that the compass is above the square. In the Shriner's meeting the Bible and Qur'an are first situated next to one another; then they are rearranged so that the Bible is in front of the Qur'an, which means that the Bible or New Testament was revealed before the Qur'an. It means that after the Bible came the Qur'an. After Jesus came Muhammad, the comforter. The Qur'an says Muhammad was a free man in the city. The Qur'an and Bible on the altar represents the equal respect that is due both books and both prophets: Jesus and Muhammad. The Shriners are aware of the teachings or sayings of Muhammad concerning he and Jesus. It is reported that Prophet Muhammad said that he and Jesus would be together in the last days. The Bible represents Jesus, and the Qur'an represents Muhammad. It is reported that Aisha said the Prophet was the Qur'an walking and living. The Bible says Jesus represented the Word or the New Testament itself. The Bible being placed in front of the Qur'an alludes to the stage of progress, Jesus came before Muhammad. A close examination of the Mason's thirty three degree system and the Shriners' Order reveals that it represents the growth from Jesus's death to Muhammad's life.

The wise and those who established this America, those who framed the Constitution were influenced by the Qur'an and the Bible. As we pointed out, the early founders of this country were Masons. Many of the leaders of this society know the great place and value of the Qur'an in the life of man, however, they don't trust

the intelligence of the masses enough to reveal this fact. Many good Christians would probably be heart broken if they knew the great respect that is given to the Qur'an, Prophet Muhammad and the Religion of Islam by their leaders in secret. Many, many reverends have taken an oath on the Qur'an and have the Qur'an in their homes.

CHAPTER XVI

FROM JESUS TO MUHAMMAD

The thirty three degree system alludes to the life and death of Jesus. It is generally believed that Jesus died around the age of thirty-two or thirty-three. In Masonic symbolism 33 would mean 3 by 3, or 3 x 3, which equals nine. (See Royal Arch Masonry). The Bible says Jesus died and gave up the ghost in the ninth (9th) hour. The Holy Prophet Muhammad received the first revelation of the Qur'an in the ninth month. Jesus's death was Muhammad's birth. Muhammad became a prophet and messenger in the ninth month. What happened in in the ninth hour? The Bible says Jesus gave up the ghost, the spiritual discipline went away and the physical body or material appetite was left. There was a separation of the material and spiritual. The sacred life connection was broken.

We are also told that Prophet Muhammad ascended to the seventh heaven and he was the ninth man. He meet Abraham, Idris (Enoch), Yusuf, Moses and Aaron, Jesus, and John, and Abraham. Muhammad was the ninth man. Some reports say that he lead the other eight in prayer. Nine represents the new life. It is the ninth month when the baby is born. We also find that life is frozen when the temperature falls below thirty two (32°) degrees, and death is usually associated with cold. Therefore, it can be understood that only those Masons who have at least 32° degrees have real life or light. It is at thirty two (32°) degrees where life begins. The cold ice begins to thaw and the new life begins to show. At thirty two the Mason travels to the heat. His attention is drawn to the hot desert, to Mecca, the Kaaba, the Qur'an. So actually we see two extremes cold and heat. The Qur'an says the Kaaba gives protection in both winter and summer.

The Bible says Jesus said destroy this temple in one day and I will build it up in there days. Muhammad was commanded to read three times. His being was made complete. Brother, once you have been exposed to the Qur'an and you say you are travelling to worship at the Shrine of Islam, if you are serious, if you really know what you are saying, then you are free. You are not bound to any oath, you have come from the cold regions of death to the warmth of life. Yes, Brother, if you really understand what you are saying when you say As-Salaam-Alaikum, ALLAHU-Akbar (God is Greater) ; All praises are due to ALLAH; come to prayer; come to success. If you are not making mockery, and you understand what you are saying when you say "There in only one God ALLAH"; then you are liberated, you will come out of secrecy into the open. The Hajj represents openness. The ninth day of the Hajj all the people come together.

If the Mason and Shriner would look deep into the symbolism and the stage by stage progression he would find that the ultimate destiny is Islam and openness. Some authorities have agreed that there is a secret or hidden doctrine behind the symbols of Masonry; I believe that it can be reasoned that the doctrine is openness. Once you get a glimpse of Islam as a Mason, believe it a or not, you are obligated to teach the message openly. You cannot hide the precious teachings of the Qur'an.

CHAPTER XVII

WHY THE EGYPTOLOGIST SHOULD READ QUR'AN

The Holy Qur'an is the summation of all the Scriptures and ancient wisdom. Some have claimed that the Prophet Muhammad wrote the Qur'an, others claimed that the Qur'an is a product of Ancient Egypt. There are many things in the Qur'an that relates to some of the wisdom of Egypt and other truths that existed before it was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. That is the precise reason why it should be read and studied by the Egyptologist. Truth has been unfolding from the time the first human being was created. Truth is one. Therefore, if you find truth in the New Testament, in the Torah, in the sacred Scripture of the Hindus and the Buddhist, or in the Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead, or any body of knowledge--if you find that same message or truth in the Qur'an---that should only serve as a confirmation of what you have found. ALLAH reveals in the Qur'an that it (The Qur'an) confirms and corrects the Scriptures that came before it.

The same Creator that revealed the great knowledge and science to the Ancient Egyptians is the same Creator who revealed the Qur'an to Muhammad. The fact of the matter is that all knowledge comes from ALLAH (GOD), and no man can attain a drop of wisdom without the permission of ALLAH (GOD). Man did not arrive at knowledge and truth by himself. Every human being is born into a creation that is already endowed with great signs and symbols. The trees, the birds, the plants, the streams and oceans---all serve and feed the mind of man. The Qur'an says the Creation is

bigger than man. The Qur'an is not only the summation of the Ancient Wisdom, but it also is a guide and rule for the further progress of man.

The Islamic Destiny for man is to understand the precious guidance that the Qur'an provides for man on this earth. Islam is not a religion that calls man to Arab nationalism. In fact, most of the Muslims on this earth are not Arabs. There is a distinct difference between the religion of Islam and Arab nationalism. Islam establishes the sacred rights of the human being. Islam brings dignity to man. It does not take away anything that is good for the human being's growth and progress. Those who believe that Islam and the Muslims enslaved the Africans should re-examine history. They should study the Qur'an and see what it says about the aim of Islam and the responsibility of the Muslim. The responsibility of the Muslim is to educate the people, to work for their mental, moral and physical freedom. The role of Islam is to bring respect and dignity to the human being. Islam took nothing from Africa, it contributed positively to the re-awakening of the Africans.

There really is no need for the African-American historian to look back in the past to see what Islam does or has done in the life of the African man. All he has to do is to look at those who have accepted Al-Islam today in America. Can the African- Americans today say Al-Islam has taken anything away from those African-Americans who have accepted the religion of Islam. If he is truthful he would have to admit that it has given us much more in terms of motivation, dignity, respect, courage, stability., etc. Al-Islam does not enslave us.

There is a difference between Arab nationalism and Al-Islam. Arab nationalism oppresses, Arab nationalism enslaves, Arab nationalism denies the women their rights, Arab nationalism is racist. Islam is universal; it is not nationalist. History has shown us that nationalism in extreme is oppressive. European Nationalism is racist, it established slavery. It denies the human being his/her God given rights, it establishes Aryan White supremacy. Yes, even extreme black or African nationalism is oppressive and racist. The

Qur'an says ALLAH made us into tribes and communities so that we may know one another and not despise one another.

"Get Knowledge, get wisdom, but with all thy getting, get an understanding." There is an aim and a purpose for each individual on the face of the earth. We all have a destiny. As long as man is shackled with the chains of ignorance and selfishness, he may never come to realize his inherent worth. Those who know are to inform those who do not know.

> Verily, (the ends) ye strive for are diverse.
> So he who gives (in charity)
> And fears (God), and (in all sincerity) Testifies to the Best-
> We will indeed make smooth for him
> The path to Bliss.
>
> (Holy Qur'an 92:4-7)

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